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A NATURAL HISTORY

OF THE

NESTS AND EGGS OF BRITISH BIRDS

VOLUME THE THIRD

NUMIDIAN CRANE.
CRANE.

CLVII

A NATURAL HISTORY

OF THE

NESTS AND EGGS

OF

BRITISH BIRDS

BY THE

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FOURTH EDITION

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NESTS AND EGGS

OF

BRITISH BIRDS

CRANE

COMMON CRANE.

PLATE CLVII.—FIGURE II.

Grus cinerea, ... MACGILLIVRAY.
Grus communis, . . . BECHSTEIN. DRESSER.

THE Crane is not known to perch on trees. The nest, a slight structure, is placed usually on raised ground, in marshy land, and is constructed of grass, rushes, flags, reeds, and other soft materials.

The Crane has not been known to breed in England for more than two hundred years. In Ray's translation of Willughby's *Ornithologia*, published in 1678, it is stated: "They often come to us in England, and in the fen countries of Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire there are great flocks of them, but whether or no they breed in England (as Aldrovandus writes he was told by a certain Englishman, who said he had often seen their young ones) I cannot

certainly determine, either of my own knowledge or from the relation of any credible person."

The eggs are two; they are richly coloured, of a pale olive-grey ground, blotted and spotted with darker shades of reddish brown. Both birds incubate them.

NUMIDIAN CRANE

DEMOISELLE CRANE.

PLATE CLVII.—FIGURE I.

Grus virgo, ...	HARTING.	DRESSER.
Anthropoides virgo, ...	VIEILLOT.	BONAPARTE.

THREE specimens of this species have been seen in Great Britain. It breeds throughout Africa and Southern Asia.

The nest, which is always on the ground, is made of dry herbage.

The eggs are two in number. They are of a dull rather light yellowish-brown ground colour, marked over, mostly at the thicker end, with a somewhat darker shade of amber brown.

HERON

HERN—HERONSHAW—HERONSEWGH—COMMON HERON—CRESTED HERON.

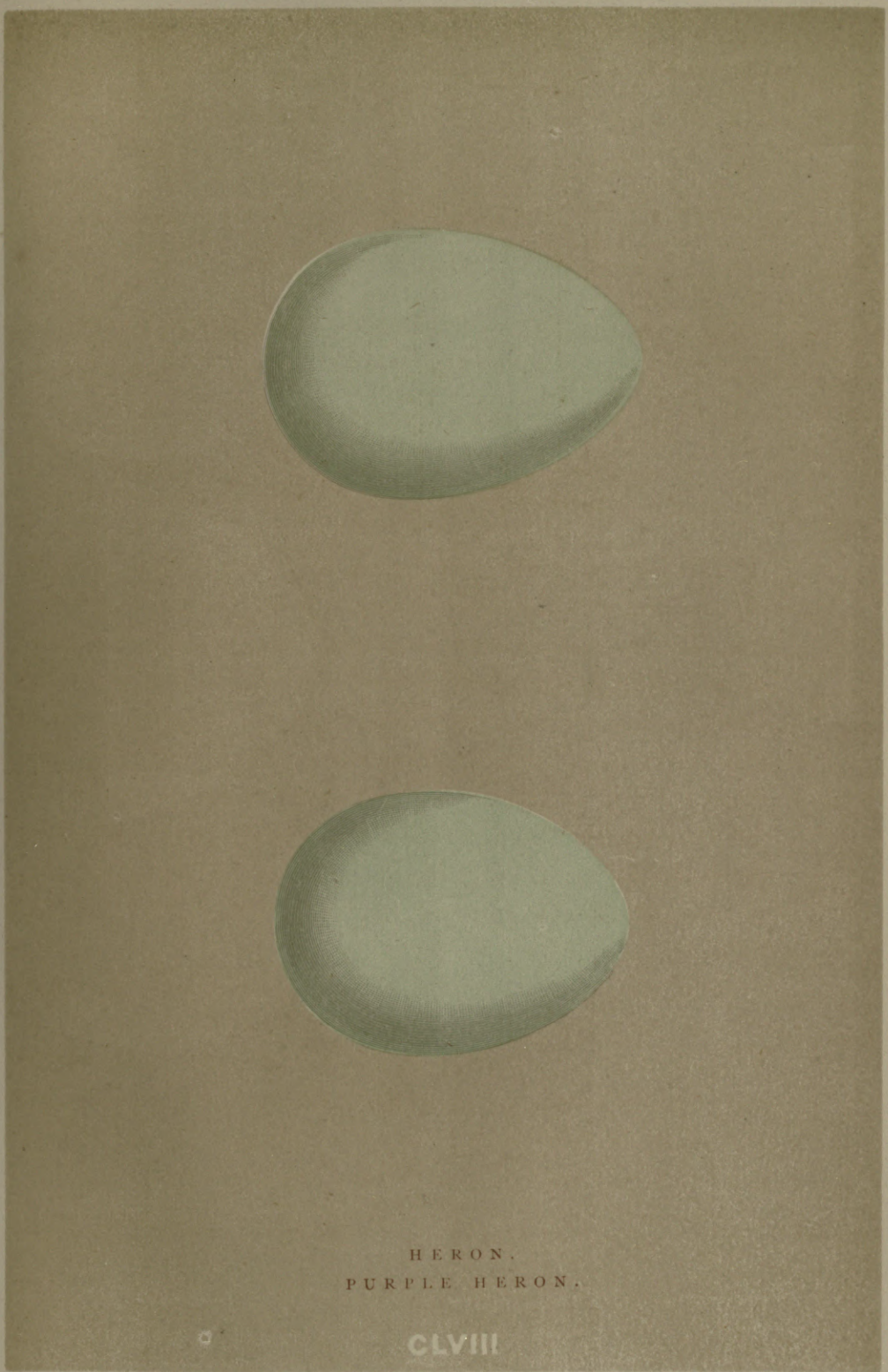
PLATE CLVIII.—FIGURE I.

Ardea cinerea, ... LINNÆUS.
Ardea cristata, ... BRISSON.

THE Heron builds usually in high trees, sometimes on precipitous sea-cliffs covered with shrubs, preferring situations in the vicinity of water. Many nests are often placed together—constituting what is termed a heronry. Preparations for nesting are made about the month of April. The nests are placed near the summit of the tree. They are flat in shape, in some cases much larger than in others, probably from an old nest being built on. They are made of sticks and twigs, and have a lining of wool or hair, rushes, dry grasses, water-flags, straws, or any soft materials.

The eggs are generally three in number, sometimes four or five, of a uniform bluish green colour.

Only one brood is reared in the season. Both parents assist in the work of providing the young with food: the male also feeds the female while sitting. If alarmed for their young, they soar about over the nests.



HERON.
PURPLE HERON.

CLVIII

PURPLE HERON

CRESTED PURPLE HERON.

PLATE CLVIII.—FIGURE II.

Ardea purpurea, ...	LINNÆUS.
Ardea caspica, ...	TURTON.
Ardea variegata, ...	LATHAM.
Ardea botaurus, ...	BRISSON.

WITH regard to the nidification and eggs of this rare straggler, the following is the account given by Mr. Hewitson, as communicated to him by Mr. Hoy:—"The Purple Heron does not begin to breed so early as the Common Heron, the end of May being the time of incubation. They breed in society like the Common Heron, very frequently in low trees, in plantations of alder and willow, in the vicinity of rivers and large inland waters, the nests being only a few feet above the ground, upon which they are likewise sometimes placed in swamps overgrown with tall rushes, and in extensive tracts of reeds; they are large and flat, and are composed entirely of sticks, the finer towards the inside, or lined with species of dry sedge and rushes." They are placed a few yards from the water; in shape they are flat and broad. Two or three nests are occasionally found near each other.

The eggs are usually three in number, and differ considerably in size and shape, as well as in colour. They are generally dull bluish green.

GREAT WHITE HERON

GREAT WHITE EGRET—GREAT EGRET.

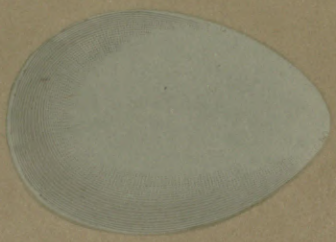
PLATE CLIX.—FIGURE II.

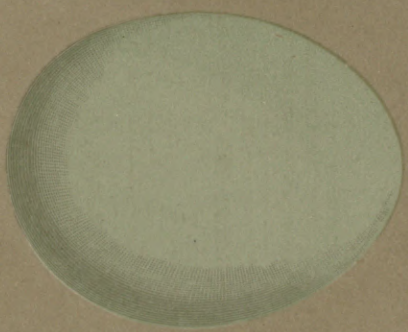
Ardea alba, ...	Linnæus.
Ardea egretta, ...	Fleming. Temminck.
Ardea candida, ...	Brisson.
Ardea alba major, . . .	Ray.
Ardea egrettoides, . . .	Gmelin.

THE nest of this species, which is of accidental occurrence in Great Britain, is a very loose structure, built of sticks, reeds, flags, and rushes, and lined with dry grass and leaves; it is placed generally on the ground, but sometimes on low trees overhanging the water, and many being placed in contiguity, as in the case of the common species. The same situation is resorted to, and the old nest repaired year after year, by the same pair. Low marshy places, covered with trees, by the side of ponds, lakes, and swamps, are those appropriated to nidification, and sometimes flat islands at a distance from the mainland.

The male bird feeds the female while she is engaged in sitting; and when the young are hatched both parents unite in supplying their wants.

The eggs are three or four in number, and of a pale bluish green colour.





LITTLE EGRET.
GREAT WHITE HERON

CLIX

LITTLE EGRET

EGRET HERON.

PLATE CLIX.—FIGURE I.

Ardea garzetta, ... LINNÆUS.

THIS species, which is also a rare accidental visitor to England, breeds in marshy places, either on the ground among reeds, or on the top of a willow stump or on the branches of a low tree, about half-a-dozen feet from the ground. The nest is made of dry sticks and rushes, flags, reeds, and grass; the latter being placed inside.

The eggs are three to six in number, and of a pale bluish green colour.

Only one brood is reared in the season.

BUFF-BACKED HERON

PLATE CLX.—FIGURE I.

Ardea bubulcus, ... AUDOUIN.
Ardea russata, ... YARRELL.

THE Buff-backed Heron has no claim to be regarded as British. It inhabits Southern Europe, Western Asia, and Africa, but has been shot three times in the south of England.

The eggs, usually three in number, are very pale blue, almost white.

BUFF-BACKED HERON.
SQUACCO HERON.
NIGHT HERON.

CLX

SQUACCO HERON

PLATE CLX.—FIGURE I.

Ardea ralloides, ...	Scopoli.	Dresser.
Ardea comata, ...	Pallas.	Seebohm.
Ardea castanea, ...	Gmelin.	

A VERY rare straggler to Great Britain that breeds in all suitable localities in Africa.

The nest is built on trees in flooded marshes.

The eggs, like those of others of the tribe, are of a uniform rather light dull bluish-green colour. They are four to six in number.

One brood only is reared in the year.

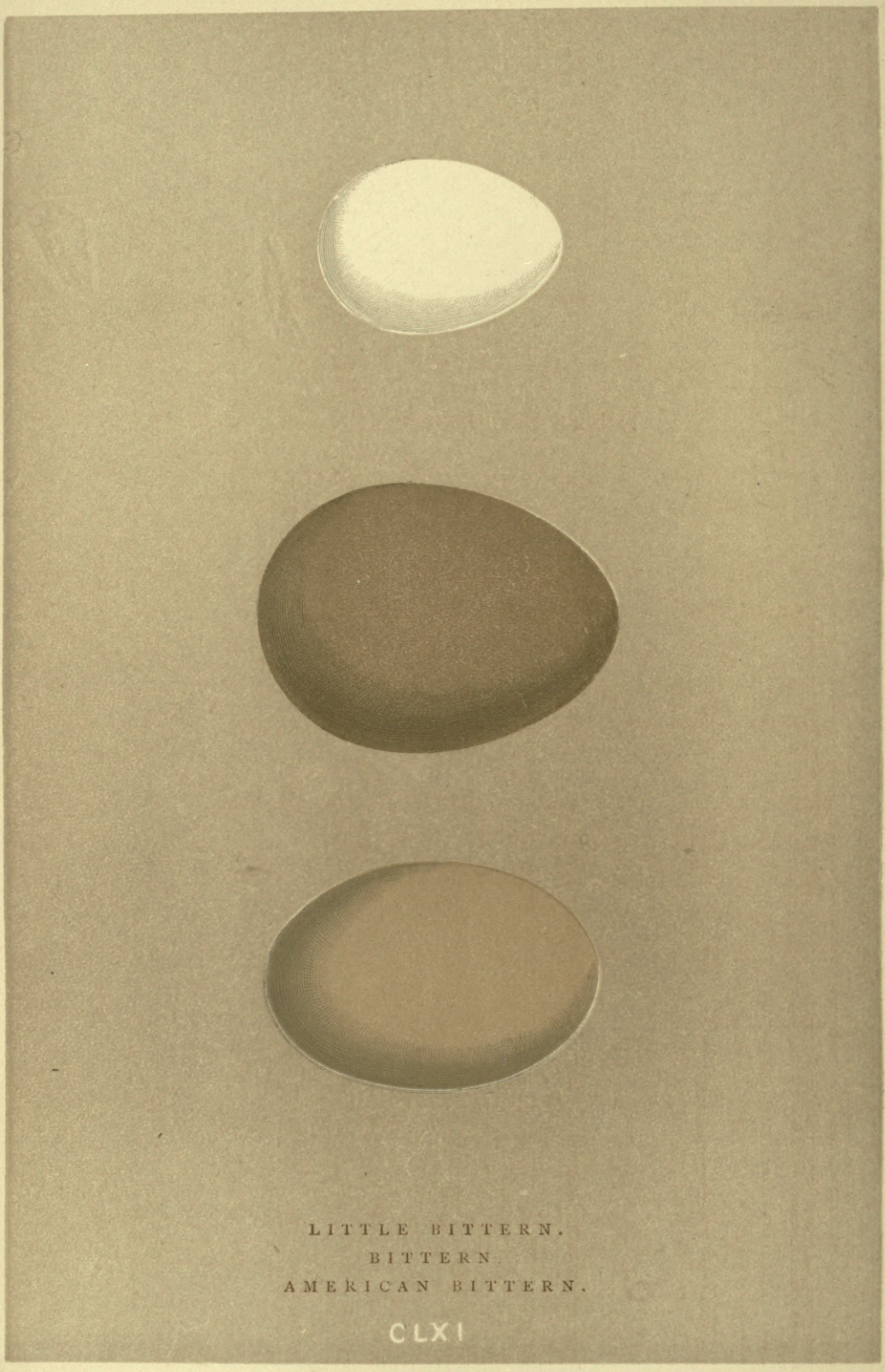
NIGHT HERON

PLATE CLX.—FIGURE III.

Nycticorax griseus, ...	GRAY. DRESSER.
Ardea nycticorax, ...	LINNÆUS.
Ardea gardeni, ...	GMELIN.

THESE birds form heronries, on the trees of retired and secluded swamps. Their nests are formed in low bushes, or in middle-sized or tall trees, as seems most convenient or secure. In some situations they are placed within a few yards of the ground, others at an elevation of not much more than twenty feet; and again in tall cypresses. The nest is fabricated of sticks, and is large in size and flat in shape; it is lined with reeds, rushes, grass, and leaves.

The eggs are three to five in number, and of a pale greenish-blue colour.



LITTLE BITTERN.
BITTERN.
AMERICAN BITTERN.

CLXI

BITTERN

COMMON BITTERN—MIRE DRUM.

PLATE CLXI.—FIGURE II.

Botaurus stellaris, ... YARRELL.
Ardea stellaris, ... LINNÆUS.

THE Bittern was formerly common in the British Islands, but is now a rare straggler, not breeding in this country.

The nest of this species is made of sticks, reeds, and other rough materials, and is generally placed on the ground, in the thickest part of the vegetation, not far from the water's edge.

The eggs are from three to four or five in number, and of a uniform pale-brown colour. The female sits on them, and the male brings her food while thus engaged. The young are fed by the parents until fully fledged and able to shift for themselves.

LITTLE BITTERN

BOONK—RUFOUS BITTERN—LITTLE HERON—LITTLE BITTERN HERON—LONG NECK.

PLATE CLXI.—FIGURE I.

Ardetta minuta, ...	GOULD. DRESSER.
Ardea minuta, ...	LINNÆUS.
Botaurus minutus, . . .	YARRELL.

THE Little Bittern, which as a straggler has occurred all over England, breeds in the south of Europe.

The nest of this bird is generally to be found in dense vegetation near water. It is placed on hummocks in the marshes, or on upright reeds or flags, a little above the usual rise of the water, and in some instances on the low boughs of an overhanging tree: a few have been found in bushes about a yard from the ground. It is made of such materials as the dry twigs of the willow, grass, reeds, rushes, and flags, and is a shapeless structure.

The eggs, four, and occasionally five, in number, according to most authors are of a whitish colour.

AMERICAN BITTERN

FRECKLED HERON—MOKOHO BITTERN—DUNKADOO.

PLATE CLXI.—FIGURE III.

Botaurus lentiginosus, . . .	MONTAGU. LEACH.
Ardea mokoho, ...	VIEILLOT.
Ardea stellaris, ...	GMELIN.
Butor americana, ...	SWAINSON.

THIS North American species has occurred several times in the British Islands.

The nest is made in swamps, a slight structure of reeds and grass.

The eggs are four to seven in number, of a uniform dull olivaceous tint, and equally obtuse at the two ends.

WHITE STORK

PLATE CLXII.—FIGURE I.

Ciconia alba, ... BECHSTEIN.
Ardea ciconia, ... MONTAGU. BEWICK.

THE White Stork, protected and breeding freely in Holland and Belgium, is not known to nest in England, where it is invariably pursued and shot if it appears.

A heap of sticks and twigs, with any other coarse materials, forms the nest of this bird. It is placed on a house-top, the summit of some tall chimney, the steeple of a church, or an old tower, or turret; as well as on the highest parts of the loftiest trees, in the immediate vicinity of the most crowded thoroughfares. It becomes very large from being accumulated year after year.

The eggs, usually three to five in number, are pure white, and of a short oval form. The young are hatched after a month's incubation, and are attended to with sedulous attention by both parents, until fully fledged and able to provide for themselves. The old birds feed them from their own bills, with food they have previously swallowed.

Only one brood is reared in the year.

WHITE STORK.
BLACK STORK.

CLXII

BLACK STORK

PLATE CLXII.—FIGURE II.

Ciconia nigra, ... FLEMING. SELBY.
Ardea nigra, ... MONTAGU.

THIS species, only a straggler in Britain, builds its nest, which is rather large, on the summit of the loftiest pine and other trees, in secluded marshy woods in the south of Europe; clefts and ledges of rocky cliffs are utilised. The foundation of sticks is finished with smaller twigs, rushes, feathers, hair, and all sorts of suitable lining.

The eggs, three to five in number, are of a greyish white colour.

SPOONBILL

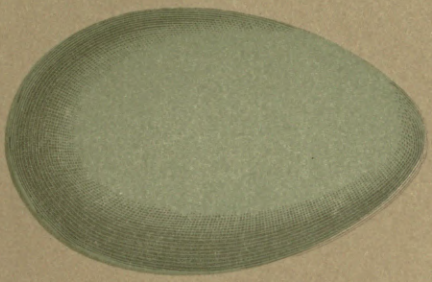
WHITE SPOONBILL.

PLATE CLXIII.—FIGURE II.

Platalea leucorodia, . . . PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Platalea nivea, ... CUVIER.

THE nest of this bird, also a rare straggler to Britain, is made in a tree, if one be situated conveniently for the purpose, on the branches of willows, or among rushes and weeds in water, or on the ground. It is put together of reeds, twigs, and rushes, and lined, if at all, with finer portions of the same; the former materials are made use of if it be placed in a tree. Several nests are built together when trees suitable for the purpose are in sufficient number.

The eggs, laid in April or early in May, are four or five in number. They are rough in texture, white, spotted with pale reddish brown; some are without the red spots.



IBIS.
SPOONBILL.
FLAMINGO.

CLXIII

IBIS

GLOSSY IBIS.

PLATE CLXIII.—FIGURE I.

Ibis falcinellus, ...	FLEMING.	SELBY.
Plegadis falcinellus, ...	DRESSER.	
Ibis ignea, ...	GMELIN.	

THIS rare straggler breeds in Southern Europe.

The nest is placed in willows which are partly submerged, or in trees, in common with the various species of Herons, and is formed of dry grass, flags, and other such materials. Several nests are placed in proximity to each other.

The eggs are three to four in number, and of a pale bluish-green colour. While the female is sitting, the male bird brings her food, and when not thus engaged, stands not far off, keeping sentry.

FLAMINGO

PLATE CLXIII.—FIGURE III.

Phœnicopterus roseus, ... PALLAS.

THE Flamingos that have been shot in England have probably been specimens escaped from confinement.

They build in the south of Spain and in the Caspian district, in great numbers, together. The nests are built on the mud of the river, and raised variously to a height of from four inches to some two feet, according as the situation is less or more liable to be flooded in rainy seasons.

The eggs, laid the latter end of May, are two in number, rather rough, and of a white colour.

WHIMBREL.
CURLEW.
ESQUIMAUX CURLEW.

CLXIV

CURLEW

COMMON CURLEW—WHAAP—WHITTERICK.

PLATE CLXIV.—FIGURE II.

Numenius arquata, ...	LINNÆUS.
Numenius major, ...	STEPHENS.
Scolopax arquata, ...	MONTAGU.

THE nest of this bird, if made in some slight hollow, consists only of a little dry grass or leaves, or is placed in the middle of a tuft of the former, among heather or rushes.

The eggs, laid in April and May, are four in number, and they differ much both in their ground colour and in the spots. They are of a pale dull green, blotted all over with two shades of brown, and are very large for the size of the bird. They are placed "quatrefoil" in the nest, the narrow ends inwards. The young run about almost as soon as hatched, but are not able to fly for a considerable time. Until then they are assiduously attended to by their parents. If approached, they hide themselves among the inequalities of the ground, and lie very close, the old birds endeavouring the while to attract the intruder away.

ESQUIMAUX CURLEW

PLATE CLXIV.—FIGURE III.

Numenius borealis, ... FOSTER.

THIS straggler breeds only in America.

The eggs are four in number, and of an olive-drab or light ash-green colour, with large irregular-shaped spots of bright brown.

WHIMBREL

LITTLE WHAAP—WHIMBREL CURLEW.

PLATE CLXIV.—FIGURE I.

Numenius phæopus, ...	PENNANT.
Numenius minor, ...	BRISSON.
Scolopax phæopus, ...	MONTAGU.

THE nest of this species, a shallow depression in the soil, is placed among the heather on the open moor or some hillock or low stump. A few dry grasses are the materials of its composition, and it is scarcely hid from view.

The eggs are four in number, of a dark olive-brown colour, blotted with darker brown. They are wide at one end and much narrower at the other, and are placed in the nest with the pointed ends inwards. They are considered good eating, and being sought for on this account, the numbers of the birds are diminished in consequence. The male and female sit on them by turns. If disturbed they make great outcries to distract the intruder. The young leave the nest as soon almost as hatched, and skulk most warily on the approach of danger.

SPOTTED REDSHANK

DUSKY REDSHANK.

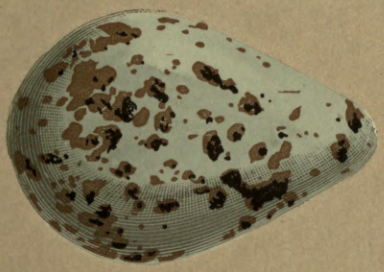
PLATE CLXV.—FIGURE I.

Totanus fuscus, ... FLEMING. SELBY.
Scolopax fusca, ... LINNÆUS.

A RARE visitor on spring and autumn migration.

Its nest is a slight depression on the ground, in dry situations.

The eggs, four in number, vary from olive to sea-green. They are blotched with brown of various shades.



SPOTTED REDSHANK.
REDSHANK.

CLXV

REDSHANK

COMMON REDSHANK—RED-LEGGED HORSEMAN—RED-LEGGED SANDPIPER.

PLATE CLXV.—FIGURE II.

Totanus calidris, ... LINNÆUS.
Tringa gambetta, ... GMELIN. LATHAM.

THE nest of this bird, composed of a little coarse grass, is placed by the marshy margins of lakes and other uncultivated watery places, on a heap of flags or in some slight depression, or sheltered by a bush or tuft of herbage, as also, it is said, occasionally on heaths.

The eggs, deposited early in May, are pale reddish-white stone colour, blotted, spotted, and speckled with dark red brown, most at the larger end. They are four in number. The young when hatched immediately quit the nest, under the care of the female bird, the male taking no care of them; they soon are fledged, and able to provide for themselves. Only one brood is reared in the year.

GREEN SANDPIPER

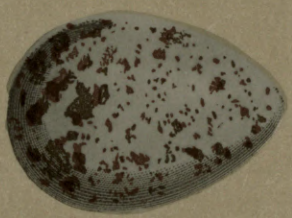
WHISTLING SANDPIPER—WOOD SANDPIPER.

PLATE CLXVI.—FIGURE I.

Totanus ochropus, ...	LINNÆUS.
Tringa aldrovandi, ...	RAY.
Helodromas ochropus, ...	KAUP.

THE nest of this species is placed in sand on a bank, or among grass by the side of a stream. It also lays its eggs in the nests of other birds, as blackbirds and wood-pigeons, not building a nest for itself.

The eggs, four in number, are of a greenish or greyish white ground colour, with dusky or dark brown and light reddish-brown and grey spots, more or less dark.



GREEN SANDPIPER.
WOOD SANDPIPER.

CLXVI

WOOD SANDPIPER

LONG-LEGGED SANDPIPER.

PLATE CLXVI.—FIGURE II.

Totanus glareola, . . . GMELIN.
Tringa glareola, . . . PENNANT. MONTAGU.

THE nest of this bird, which is extremely difficult to find, owing to the nature of the ground where it is put, is generally placed in a hollow, at but a little distance from water, among heath, or plants of the bog-myrtle, rushes, or grass. It is made of grass or other vegetable materials.

The eggs, four in number, pointed in shape, and of a pale greenish white, spotted and speckled, particularly at the larger end, with dark reddish brown. The hen bird incubates them, and her partner, watching by, rises up and hovers about any intruder.

COMMON SANDPIPER

SUMMER SNIPE—SPOTTED SANDPIPER—SAND LARK—SAND LAVEROCK.

PLATE CLXVII.—FIGURE I.

Tringa hypoleucos, . . .	PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Totanus hypoleucos, . . .	FLEMING. SELBY.
Tringoides hypoleucos, . .	BONAPARTE.

THIS bird, which is distributed throughout the British Islands and Europe generally, commences to breed about the middle of April.

The nest is slight—a collection of a few leaves, a little moss or dry grass, in a hollow in a bank, in a tuft of grass or tussock of rushes, upon a bed of gravel, or even on a bare rock, the eggs being kept together by only a very slight inequality in the surface. It is generally thus sheltered or protected, on one side at least. It is usually built near the water's edge, but sometimes in an adjoining field, always above the highest water-mark. It is usually well hidden in a tuft of grass or rushes, or among the lower branches of willows and osiers. The same pair, if undisturbed, will return for several successive seasons to their accustomed building-place.

The eggs, four in number, are of a reddish-white or cream-yellow tint, spotted and speckled with dark brown, and other marks of a lighter hue. Some are of a clear very

COMMON SANDPIPER.
SPOTTED SANDPIPER.

CLXVII

light blue ground colour, with minute brown spots all over; others with blots of deep brown. They are, as those of other waders, admirably adapted, both by their form and their position in the nest, to occupy the smallest possible degree of space, as rendered expedient by their large size in proportion to that of the bird. The young are hatched in about fourteen days, and leave the nest almost immediately. They quickly learn to hide themselves in the nearest covert, and in about a month are able to shift for themselves.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER

PLATE CLXVII.—FIGURE II.

Tringa macularia, . . .	PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Totanus macularius, . . .	SELBY. JENYNS.
Totanus macularia. . . .	TEMMINCK.

THIS American species is of exceedingly doubtful occurrence in the British Isles.

The nest of the Spotted Sandpiper is placed in some well-hidden spot in a field, and is composed of short pieces of straw or other materials as may be furnished by the locality, but in the colder climate of Labrador the nest is concealed under rocks, and lined with the feathers of the Eider Duck.

The eggs are of a pale reddish-buff colour, spotted and speckled with very dark brown blotches. They are four in number.

GREENSHANK.

CLXVIII

GREENSHANK

PLATE CLXVIII.

Scolopax glottis, . . .	PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Totanus canescens, . .	GMELIN. LATHAM.
Totanus glottis, . .	SEEBOHM. FLEMING. SELBY.
Limosa grisea, . .	BRISSON.
Limosa glottis, . .	STEPHENS.

THIS spring and autumn visitant to England breeds in the north of Scotland.

The nest is a small hollow, concealed in heath or herbage; it is slight, and lined with grass or leaves.

The eggs, of a pear shape as in the kindred species, are four in number, of a very pale stone colour, sprinkled all over with irregular spots of dark brown and blots of light purple grey, with fewest of either on the smaller end.

AVOCET

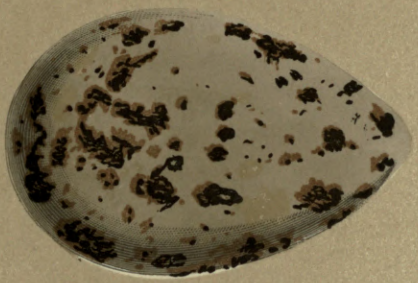
SCOOPER—COBBLER'S AWL DUCK—YELPER—BARKER—CLINKER.

PLATE CLXIX.—FIGURE II.

Recurvirostra avocetta, . LINNÆUS. FLEMING. SELBY.
Himantopus avocetta, . SEEBOHM.

THE nest of this species is said to be made in a hollow on some dry spot in a marsh, or on the sea bank, just above high-water mark, among the short grass, or other scanty marine vegetation. It is lined with dry grass and leaves.

The eggs, usually three or four in number, are clay-buff, spotted and speckled with rich dark brown. The young are hatched in eighteen days, and leave the nest almost immediately. If chased, they hide themselves, with much success, among the scanty cover.



STILT.
AVOCET.

CLXIX

STILT

BLACK-WINGED STILT — STILT PLOVER — LONG-LEGS — LONG-LEGGED PLOVER — LONG-SHANKS — BLACK-WINGED LONG-SHANK.

PLATE CLXIX.—FIGURE I.

Himantopus melanopterus, . .	SELBY. JENYNS.
Himantopus plinii, . . .	FLEMING.
Himantopus atropterus, . .	MEYER.
Himantopus rufipes, . . .	BECHSTEIN.
Charadrius himantopus, . .	PENNANT. MONTAGU.

THE Stilt is a rare straggler, visiting England only on migration. There is no evidence that it has ever bred in this country.

The nest is slight, being made of bents, under the shelter of a tuft of rushes.

The eggs, four in number, are of a warm stone colour, blotted and streaked with dark brown.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT

COMMON GODWIT — GODWYN — YARWHELP — YARWHIP — LESSER GODWIT — YADREKA SNIPE — RED GODWIT — SHRIEKER.

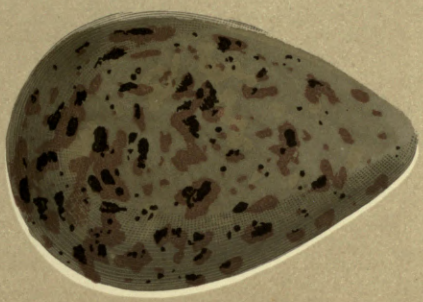
PLATE CLXX.—FIGURE I.

Limosa melanura, . . .	LEISLER. TEMMINCK.
Limosa ægocephala, . . .	FLEMING.
Fedoa melanura, . . .	STEPHENS.
Limosa belgica, . . .	GMELIN.
Scolopax ægocephala, . . .	LINNÆUS.
Scolopax limosa, . . .	PENNANT.
Scolopax lapponica, . . .	BEWICK.
Ægocephalus bellonii, . . .	RAY.

THIS bird, which used to breed in the fens fifty years since, is now known only during its spring and autumn migrations.

The nest, a slight hollow, is composed of dry grass or other wild plants, and hidden among any coarse herbage.

The eggs are four in number, of a light olive-brown colour, faintly blotted with spots of a darker brown.



BLACK-TAILED GODWIT.
BAR-TAILED GODWIT.

CLXX

BAR-TAILED GODWIT

COMMON GODWIT—RED GODWIT—GODWYN—GREY GODWIT—
RED-BREASTED SNIPE.

PLATE CLXX.—FIGURE II.

Limosa rufa, ...	BRISSON.
Limosa lapponica, ...	DRESSER.
Fedoa pectoralis, ...	STEPHENS.
Scolopax leucophæa, ...	LATHAM.
Scolopax noveboracensis, ...	MONTAGU.
Totanus rufus, ...	SEEBOHM.

THIS species, which has never been known to breed in any part of the British Islands, deposits its eggs, which are of a pale olive-brown colour, speckled, blotted, and spotted with other darker shades of brown, in a slight depression in the ground, the nest being formed of a little dry grass or herbage. It breeds in the swampy portions of the Arctic tundras.

RUFF

REEVE (FEMALE)—FIGHTING RUFF—SHORE SANDPIPER.

PLATE CLXXI.

Machetes pugnax, ...	Linnæus.	Gould.
Totanus pugnax, ...	Seebohm.	
Tringa equestris, ...	Latham.	
Tringa littorea, ...	Latham.	
Totanus cinereus, ...	Brisson.	

THE Reeve, which formerly bred in numbers in the east of England, is now only seen on migration. In the north of Europe it begins to lay the first or second week in May, and the young are hatched the beginning of June. The nest, made of coarse grass, is placed on some hillock among sedges or rushes.

The eggs are subject to considerable variety: some are of a greyish-green ground colour, others olive brown, spotted with reddish brown. They are four in number.

RUFF.

CLXXI

WOODCOCK.
GREAT SNIPE.

CLXXII

WOODCOCK

PLATE CLXXII.—FIGURE I.

Scolopax rusticola, ... PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Scolopax rusticula, ... NAUMANN.

THE nest of this bird is merely a depression in a dry place in woods and plantations, lined with dry grass, fern, or leaves, loosely put together.

The eggs are generally four in number. They are of a yellowish white colour, blotted with ash grey or reddish brown. They require seventeen days' incubation; the hen bird sits very close. The young run about as soon as hatched.

GREAT SNIPE

SOLITARY SNIPE—DOUBLE SNIPE.

PLATE CLXXII.—FIGURE II.

Scolopax major, . . . PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Gallinago major, . . . STEPHENS.

THE nest of the Great Snipe, a straggler to Britain, is placed on a tuft of grass or hillock in a marsh near to some standing water, and is lined with a little grass and fragments of other herbage.

The eggs are four in number, of a yellowish olive-brown colour, spotted with two shades of reddish brown. They are hatched after an incubation of seventeen days, and then the young are tended for about a month by their parents.

SNIPE.
JACK SNIPE.

CLXXIII

SNIPE

COMMON SNIPE—WHOLE SNIPE—HEATHER-BLEATER.

PLATE CLXXIII.—FIGURE I.

Scolopax gallinago, . . .	PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Scolopax gallinaria, . . .	GMELIN.
Gallinago cœlestis, . . .	FRENZEL.

TOWARDS the end of March, or beginning of April, the male Snipe begins to "call" for a mate. The nest is commonly placed in the middle of a tuft of grass, rushes, or heather, in a shallow depression in the surface; by the side of water, as also among the heather where watery spots abound on the hillside, often at an elevation of from five hundred to a thousand feet above the level of the plain. A few chance stalks furnish its lining, if any be provided at all, which is not always the case.

The eggs are four in number, and of a very large size in proportion to that of the bird; their colour is pale yellowish or greenish white, blotted at the larger end with two or three shades of brown. Some are spotted all over with small spots; some are of a clear green ground, and others olive brown. Six eggs have several times been found in one nest, as mentioned by the Rev. G. Low, in his *Fauna Orcadenis*, but they doubtless must have been the joint contribution of two birds.

Booth in his "Rough Notes" gives a most elaborate and interesting account of this species. He states that in the Highlands these birds nest out on the moist parts of the moors, as well as along the river sides. He has seen the young in low-lying hayfields as late as September. A few Snipe still breed in the bogs of some of the large Sussex forests of beech and birch, and in the same county a nest or two may occasionally be found in the water meadows bordering the course of the sluggish rivers which are making their way towards the Channel. If unmolested two broods are occasionally reared during the season.

JACK SNIPE

JUDCOCK—HALF SNIPE.

PLATE CLXXIII.—FIGURE II.

Scolopax gallinula, ...	LINNÆUS.
Gallinago gallinula, ...	DRESSER.
Lymnocryptes gallinula, ...	GOULD.

THE Jack Snipe, which is a common winter visitant to Britain, breeds in the marshes of Lapland and on the Dovrefjeld.

Its nest is a mere depression on some grassy knoll, or in a tuft of rushes, and is lined with small pieces of grass, horse-hair, or a few dead leaves of the dwarf birch.

The eggs are four in number, and of a yellowish olive-colour, spotted about the larger end with two shades of brown. They are very large for the size of the bird.

BROWN SNIPE

RED-BREASTED SNIPE—GREY SNIPE—BROWN LONGBEAK.

PLATE CLXXIV.

Scolopax grisea, ...	PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Macroramphus griseus, . .	EYTON. GOULD.
Ereunetes griseus, . . .	SEEBOHM.

THE Red-breasted Snipe is a straggler from America, where it is common; it does not nest in England.

The eggs of this species are a brownish olive, blotched with dark umber.

BROWN SNIPE.

CLXXIV

CURLEW SANDPIPER.
KNOT.

CLXXV

CURLEW SANDPIPER

PIGMY CURLEW.

PLATE CLXXV.—FIGURE I.

Tringa subarquata, ... FLEMING. SELBY.
Scolopax pygmæa, ... LATHAM.

THIS bird is not uncommon in England during migration in spring and autumn.

Its eggs are described as being of a yellowish colour, spotted with brown; but its breeding-quarters are not known with certainty.

KNOT

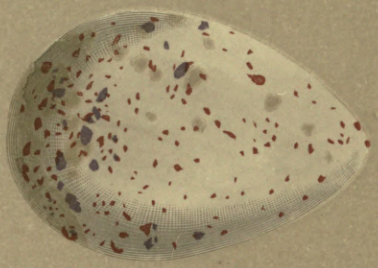
RED SANDPIPER—ASH-COLOURED SANDPIPER.

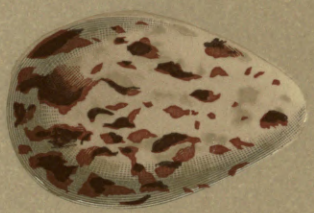
PLATE CLXXV.—FIGURE II.

Tringa canutus, ...	LINNÆUS.
Tringa islandica, ...	PENNANT.
Tringa cinerea, ...	TEMMINCK.
Calidris canutus, ...	FLEMING.

A WINTER visitant, breeding only in the Arctic regions. A tuft of grass serves as a depository for the eggs of this species.

Authenticated eggs are quite unknown; they are, however, said to be four in number, of a light yellowish-brown colour, marked at the larger end with grey and reddish spots, forming more or less of a belt, and least spotted towards the smaller end.





BARTRAM'S SANDPIPER.
YELLOW-SHANKS.
BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER.

CLXXV *

BARTRAM'S SANDPIPER

BARTRAM'S TATTLER.

PLATE CLXXV.*—FIGURE I.

Totanus bartramii,	. . .	RICHARDSON.
Totanus bartrami,	. . .	SEEBOHM.
Tringa bartramia,	. . .	WILSON. AUDUBON.
Actiturus longicaudus,	. . .	BECHSTEIN.

BARTRAM'S Sandpiper is a rare straggler to England, breeding only in North America.

Its nest is made, if at all, of a few grasses placed in a hollow scooped out of the earth.

The eggs, four in number, are pinkish, blotched with numerous spots of light purple and reddish brown.

YELLOW-SHANKS

YELLOW-SHANKED SANDPIPER—TATTLER.

PLATE CLXXV.*—FIGURE II.

Totanus flavipes, ... NUTTALL. AUDUBON.
Scolopax flavipes, ... WILSON.

THE eggs of this American species appear to be of the type usual in this class of birds, the ground colour creamy buff, marked irregularly over, chiefly at the larger end, with darker and lighter chocolate brown and umber.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER

PLATE CLXXV.*—FIGURE III.

Tringa rufescens, ... SELBY. JENYNS.
Tryngetes rufescens, ... VIEILLOT.

THIS bird is another rare straggler.

The eggs vary in colour from pale sandy to rich ochre, spotted with rich reddish brown.

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER

PLATE CLXXVI.—FIGURE I.

Tringa platyrhyncha, . . . GOULD. TEMMINCK.
Limicola platyrhyncha, . . . DRESSER.

THIS bird, a rare straggler to England, is late in laying its eggs; they have been found not incubated on the 24th of June, and the young still unable to fly the last week in the following month.

The nest is placed in a hummock of grass, the lining being suited to the colour of the eggs, which are, in general, of a deep chocolate, sometimes spotted and mottled with a darker shade of the same. They are four in number.

One brood only appears to be reared in the year; both birds assist in the work of incubation.

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER.
STINT.
PEEP.

CLXXVI

STINT

LITTLE STINT—LITTLE SANDPIPER—BROWN SANDPIPER—MINUTE DUNLIN—LEAST SNIPE.

PLATE CLXXVI.—FIGURE II.

Tringa minuta, ... LEISLER.
Tringa pusilla, ... LINNÆUS.

THIS species is only met with in England during migration, arriving during autumn. It breeds in the extreme north of Europe and Asia.

The nests are merely in hollows in the moor.

The eggs vary in ground colour from greenish grey to pale brown, being blotched with deeper brown. They resemble except in size those of the Dunlin.

PEEP

AMERICAN STINT—LITTLE PEEP.

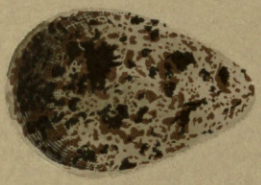
PLATE CLXXVI.—FIGURE III.

Tringa minutella, ... VIEILLOT.
Tringa pusilla, ... LINNÆUS.

THIS species has only been obtained in England on two occasions, though exceedingly common in the United States.

The nest is a mere hollow lined with grass.

The eggs, four in number, are a rich cream colour, blotched with dark umber.



TEMMINCK'S STINT.
SCHINZ'S SANDPIPER.
PECTORAL SANDPIPER.

CLXXVII

TEMMINCK'S STINT

TEMMINCK'S SANDPIPER—TEMMINCK'S DUNLIN—LITTLE SANDPIPER.

PLATE CLXXVII.—FIGURE I.

Tringa temminckii, ...	LEISLER.
Tringa pusilla, ...	FLEMING.
Leimonites temminckii, ...	GOULD.

TEMMINCK'S STINT is but of rare occurrence in England; it breeds in Northern Europe.

The nest is a mere depression in short grass or rushes.

The eggs, four in number, vary from pale buff to greenish grey, blotched with several shades of brown.

SCHINZ'S SANDPIPER

PLATE CLXXVII.—FIGURE II.

Tringa schinzii, . . . BUONAPARTE. EYTON.

AN American species, which breeds in the Arctic regions, and has very rarely been shot in this country.

The nest is placed on some grassy knoll, by lakes or marshes.

The eggs are four in number, yellowish grey or rufous brown, spotted with dark brown markings.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER

PLATE CLXXVII.—FIGURE III.

Tringa maculata, ... VIEILLOT.
Tringa pectoralis, ... MACGILLIVRAY.

A RARE straggler from America on autumn migration.

It nests on the grass in Arctic America, and lays four dull greenish eggs, mottled and marbled over, principally about the thicker end, with more or less of reddish brown.

DUNLIN

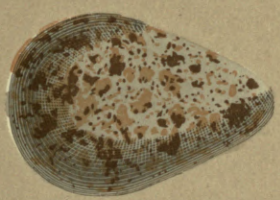
PURRE—DUNLIN SANDPIPER—SEA SNIPE—STINT—PLOVER'S-PAGE—LEAST SNIPE—SEA LARK.

PLATE CLXXVIII.—FIGURE I.

Tringa variabilis, . . . SELBY. JENYNS.
Tringa alpina, ... LINNÆUS.
Tringa cinclus, ... PENNANT. MONTAGUE.

THE Dunlin, which is common on the British coasts in winter, usually nests under the shelter of some tuft or small bush, in any dry spot on our Northern moors and heaths, mosses or salt marshes, as well as by the sea. It is often concealed, with great success, so as to be very difficult to find. Sometimes, however, it is fashioned upon the open grass which grows green and verdant here and there among the dark heather. A few bits of moss, withered heath, or grass, form its careless lining, if there be any in it, the same materials being for the most part merely rounded into form.

The eggs are four in number, of a pale greenish white, greenish grey, or dull green colour, blotted and spotted with a darker and a lighter shade of brown, most so towards and at the larger end. Some have the ground a light buff inclining to dull white, others a clear light green richly spotted with light brown. They are subject to great variation. When in the nest they are arranged with the smaller ends inwards.



DUNLIN.

PURPLE SANDPIPER.

CLXXVIII

PURPLE SANDPIPER

SELNINGER SANDPIPER—BLACK SANDPIPER—SEA SANDPIPER.

PLATE CLXXVIII.—FIGURE II.

Tringa striata, ...	LINNÆUS.
Tringa maritima, ...	YARRELL.
Tringa nigricans, ...	MONTAGU.

THE nest of this occasional winter visitant, which breeds in Northern Europe, is fitted in some deep hollow in the ground, with a little moss or other herbage for a lining. It is sometimes built in the middle of a clump of short grass.

The eggs are four in number. They are of a pyriform, *i.e.*, pear shape, varying from pale olive to pale buffish brown, with small irregular spots of darker brown, crowded at the larger end. They appear to be laid at the end of June or beginning of July.

LAND-RAIL

CORN-CRAKE—DAKER HEN—MEADOW-CRAKE.

PLATE CLXXIX.—FIGURE I.

Crex pratensis, ...	BECHSTEIN.
Rallus crex, ...	LINNÆUS.
Ortygometra crex, ...	FLEMING. GRAY.

THE nest of the Corn-Crake is placed among long grass or corn, in a furrow or some slight hollow, and is lined with a few of the leaves and stalks of the neighbouring herbage.

The eggs, commonly seven to ten, or even twelve in number, are of a pale reddish-brown, reddish, or yellowish-white colour, spotted and speckled with gray and reddish brown. Usually they do not vary much, except in the size and greater or less number of the spots. Some, however, are of a red-tinted ground colour, with blots of deep red brown and purple. One brood is reared in the year, but when the nest and eggs are destroyed during the hay-making season, which is not unfrequently the case, the Land-Rail will then lay again, rearing a second brood even as late as September.

The young quit the nest soon after they are hatched, and in rather less than six weeks are able to fly.

LAND-RAIL.
SPOTTED CRAKE.

CLXXIX

SPOTTED CRAKE

SPOTTED RAIL—SPOTTED WATER-HEN—WATER-CRAKE—
SPOTTED GALLINULE—WATER-RAIL.

PLATE CLXXIX.—FIGURE II.

Crex porzana, ...	SELBY. JENYNS.
Porzana maruetta, ...	DRESSER.
Ortygometra porzana, ...	GRAY.

THE nest of this Crake is put together of the larger and smaller stalks of rushes, reeds, and other water-plants, in marshy places, among beds of reeds, and often at the water's edge, and is thickly lined with soft grass, and the edges well rounded. They are at times destroyed by the rising of floods.

The eggs are as many as from eight, ten, or twelve in number, and even eighteen have been found together, but these doubtless have been the produce of two birds. They are of a pale reddish-white or olive-buff ground colour, spotted and speckled with dark reddish brown. The hen sits for three weeks to hatch the eggs. The young quit the nest very soon after being hatched.

One brood only is reared during the year, but if the first nest is destroyed a second clutch of eggs is laid.

LITTLE CRAKE

OLIVACEOUS CRAKE—LITTLE GALLINULE—DWARF RAIL.

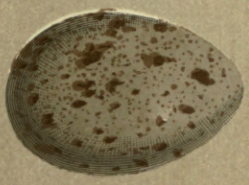
PLATE CLXXX.—FIGURE I.

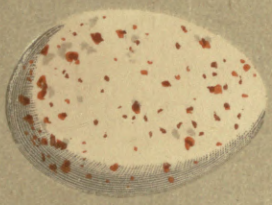
Porzana parva, ...	DRESSER.
Crex pusilla, ...	SELBY. JENYNS.
Gallinula minuta, . . .	MONTAGU. BEWICK.

THE nest of this rare visitant from the Continent, which is of considerable size, is usually placed in a tuft of rushes or on the stalks of other aquatic plants bent down and intermingled with grass, the adjoining materials of the like kind being drawn towards it.

The eggs are from seven or eight to ten in number, smooth, without much polish, and of a light olive-brown or yellowish colour, spotted with darker brown.

The young run out of the nest very soon after being hatched.





LITTLE CRAKE.
BAILLON'S CRAKE.
WATER-RAIL.

CLXXX

BAILLON'S CRAKE

PLATE CLXXX.—FIGURE II.

Crex baillonii, ...	MACGILLIVRAY.
Gallinula baillonii, ...	TEMMINCK.
Zapornia baillonii, ...	STEPHENS.
Ortygometra baillonii, ...	SHAW.

THIS rare visitant was once known to have bred in Norfolk. Its nest is made near the water's edge, in the moist situations which the bird itself frequents, among long grass, flags, or rushes, and is very difficult to find. Its component parts are the stems and leaves of water-plants, sedge, and grasses.

The eggs are six to eight in number, and of a regular oval form. Their colour is olive brown, spotted with darker brown.

Two broods are usually reared in the year, in Southern Europe and in Asia, where the bird is common.

WATER-RAIL

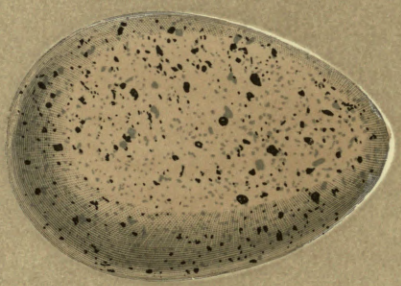
BILCOCK—BROOK-RUNNER—RUNNER.

PLATE CLXXX.—FIGURE III.

Rallus aquaticus, ... LINNÆUS.

THE nest of this species, which is built of sedge, flags, and grass, is concealed among the thickest herbage; frequently in willow beds. Mr. Wolley mentions one which was built upon rushes, floating on the water, and another upon a clump close to its margin.

The eggs are covered with small specks of greyish ash-colour and reddish brown, on a dull cream-coloured white ground; some are almost spotless. They are from seven to eleven in number.



MOOR-HEN.

COOT.

CLXXXI

MOOR-HEN

WATER-HEN—COMMON GALLINULE—MOAT-HEN—MOOR-COOT—MARSH-HEN.

PLATE CLXXXI.—FIGURE I.

Gallinula chloropus, ... MACGILLIVRAY.
Fulica chloropus, ... LINNÆUS.

THE nest of the Moor-Hen, which is large, is strongly put together, though only of rough workmanship, and is commonly found well concealed among reeds, long grass, or the roots of trees, just above the water's edge, on the margin of a stream or by a bank. It has been known as much as three feet above the surface, on the stump of a tree, or even on the lower branches of a fir, or in a thorn bush at that elevation. The Rev. Leonard Jenyns has recorded one instance in which it was constructed among the ivy encircling a large elm, which hung over the water's edge, at the height of at least ten feet from the ground. He says, "There was a reason for it; the rising of the water in the pond frequently flooded the banks of the island, and, as I had before witnessed, had destroyed several broods." One was built upon the branches of a willow overhanging the lake at Castle Howard, at the height of four or five feet above the water. A writer in the *Magazine of Natural History*, mentions another placed in a fir tree twenty feet above the water. Mr. R. T.

Davidson, of Muirhouse, has informed me of a nest he found, thirty feet from the water, near the river Blackadder, at precisely the same height in the same kind of tree.

The nest has been seen quite unattached to any fixture, though surrounded by loose sticks, and thus at the mercy of the winds and waves. Moor-Hens have been known to hatch their eggs after being removed in part of the nest to another place, and also themselves to remove them, when threatened with destruction by the rising of the water; fresh materials being in each case brought together. Mr. J. H. Gurney and Mr. W. R. Fisher have recorded an instance in which they knew the nest of a Moor-Hen placed in a fir plantation at a distance of a quarter of a mile from any water. I have seen one myself placed at some height above the water on a fallen branch of a tree, which formed a natural bridge over a river.

The eggs are usually seven to nine in number; ten have, however, been often seen in one nest. They are of a reddish or yellowish white colour, spotted and speckled all over with reddish brown; they vary exceedingly in size. Two if not three broods are commonly reared in the year. The first eggs are laid the end of April or in May, and are, in early seasons, or localities, hatched in the latter month, but usually not till June. It is a curious fact that the youngest brood is carefully and kindly attended to by that which is its elder, as both are at the same time by the parents.

Incubation continues three weeks. The young soon leave the nest, still attended by their mother, who leads them to the water, but, for a time, they return to the nest at night for shelter. The hen takes the young at times under her wings.

COOT

COMMON COOT—BALD COOT.

PLATE CLXXXI.—FIGURE II.

Fulica atra, ... LINNÆUS.

THE nest of this well-known bird is a large compact structure, built of dry flags, and though of rough workmanship, very strong in its composition, so as to keep the eggs dry, although in close proximity to water. It is built by the edges of islands or the borders of lakes, ponds, and rivers, and is generally placed among, and loosely attached to, flags and reeds; sometimes on a tuft of rushes, and composed of the former plants; the finer portions are placed inwards. Mr. Hewitson says that the flags are sometimes accumulated so much as to rise from half a foot to a foot above the water, going down also to a depth of from one foot and a half to two feet; the width is about a foot and a half, and the interior nearly flat. Since writing the above, I have observed one placed on the water, as indeed they not unfrequently are, and confined only in its place by the reeds springing up around it. It was three or four yards from the edge of a small pond, adjoining the high-road between Fangfoss and Stamford Bridge. The old bird moved a little way from it as I stopped, but did not appear shy, as she doubtless would at another time.

One of the birds appears to remain on the site of the nest, while the other brings the flags, &c. which compose it.

Bishop Stanley writes thus on the subject of this part of the natural history of these birds:—"They, too, build a simple rushy nest, but with this difference, that instead of seeking to raise it above the water, they seem to prefer it floating upon the very surface, where, of course, it is exposed to the double danger of being carried hither and thither according as the wind blows, or if interwoven with reeds or rushes close to the water, of being covered, should the waters be raised by floods. But the Coot is apparently well aware of these possibilities, and accordingly guards against them, preventing the nests being carried away, by ingeniously fastening the materials of which they are made, to the rushes or osiers near them; but at the same time, these fastenings are of such a nature, as to allow of the nests rising with the water, so that no ordinary flood would expose them to the danger of immersion. The Coot, like the Water-Hen, covers her nest, and, if not so effectually, yet with a most extraordinary rapidity. We have repeatedly watched a Coot quietly sitting on her nest; if the boat approaches, she rises, and immediately begins pecking away right and left, which she continues to do until the enemy is so near that she is compelled to decamp for her own preservation. In this short time, however, she almost always contrives to cover her eggs; and though the nest itself remains a very conspicuous object, a careless observer might pass it as deserted and empty." Quarrels arise among different birds sometimes at the spring of the year, for the choice of a situation.

The eggs are from seven to ten or even more in number, of a light stone-colour, spotted with small rust-

coloured spots. If the first hatch be taken or destroyed, a second is produced.

The young almost immediately leave the nest to run about, and after a few days entirely forsake it, unless the weather is unseasonable, in which case they return to it at night for a week or two, the old birds carefully tending them as long as necessary.

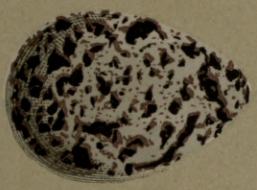
GREY PHALAROPE

PLATE CLXXXII.—FIGURE I.

Phalaropus fulicarius,	. .	LINNÆUS.
Phalaropus lobatus,	. . .	PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Phalaropus platyrhynchus,	. .	NAUMANN.

THE nest of this irregular visitant, which breeds in Arctic Siberia, is described as slight, lined with a few grasses, or a mere formation of the natural herbage around, and placed in a hollow on some elevated spot in marshy places, but always in the vicinity of water, either the sea or some inland lake or river.

The eggs are usually four in number, of a stone colour, with a tinge of olive, and spots and specks of dark brown. The old birds show great fondness for their young, and remain with them till they are well able to fly. Only one brood is reared in the season.



GREY PHALAROPE.
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE

RED-NECKED COOT-FOOT—RED-NECKED LOBE-FOOT.

PLATE CLXXXII.—FIGURE II.

Phalaropus hyperboreus, ... LINNÆUS.
Lobipes hyperboreus, ... MACGILLIVRAY.

THESE birds now breed only in the Shetland Islands and the Hebrides. They are late in laying, only one or two eggs having been found laid by nearly the middle of June. It appears that the male bird assists the female in the task of incubation.

The nest is placed in a hollow on a small hillock, or in a tuft of grass by the edge of the water, and is deep in shape; the material of which it is formed is dry grass. Both parents are much attached to their offspring. Several nests are frequently placed in the same neighbourhood.

The eggs appear to be four in number, and of a dull olive-green colour, a good deal blotted with black brown or dusky. The young leave the nest soon after being hatched.

GREY-LAG GOOSE

WILD-GOOSE—GREY-LAG GOOSE.

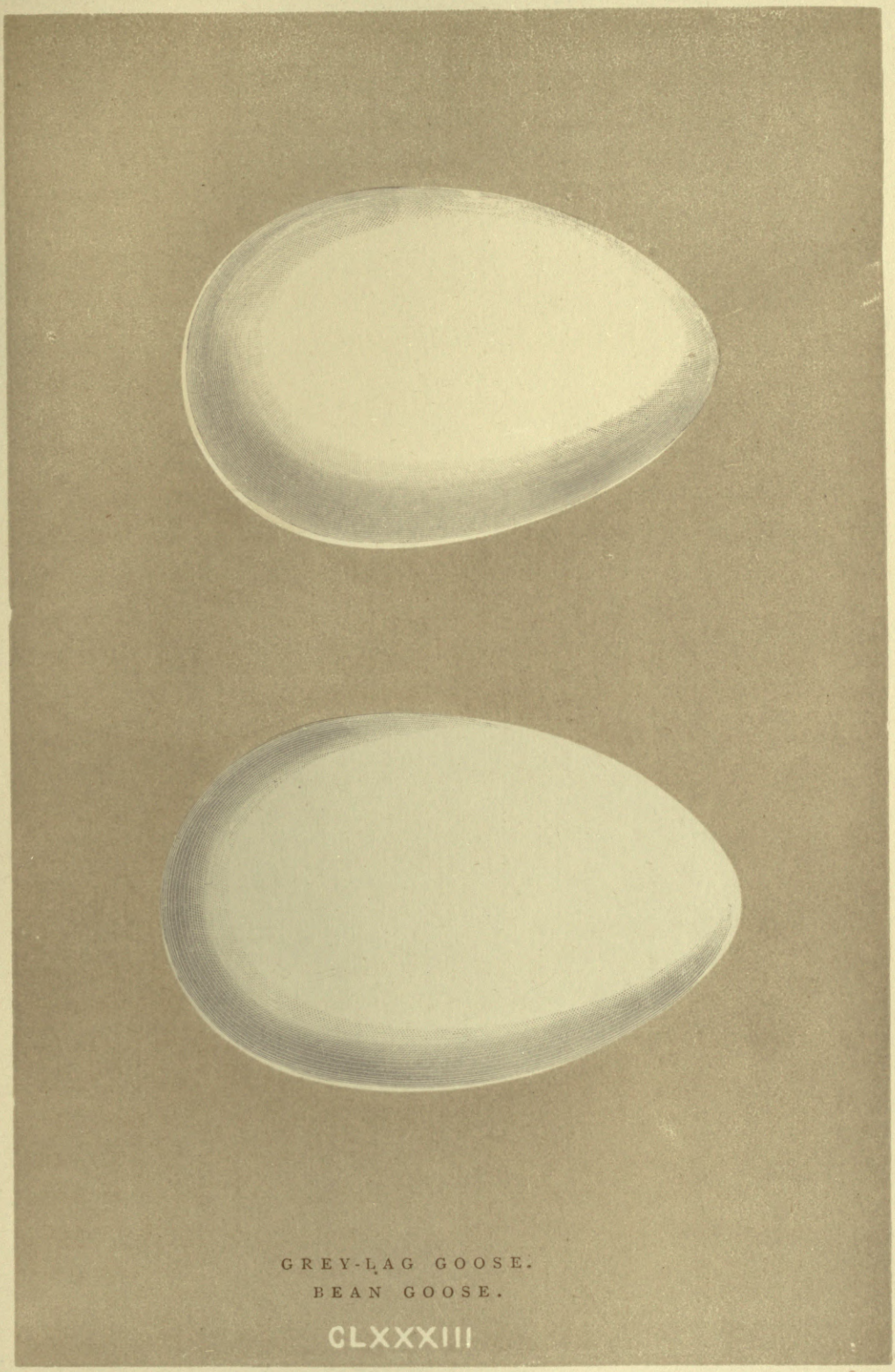
PLATE CLXXXIII.—FIGURE I.

Anser cinereus, ...	MEYER.
Anser palustris, ...	FLEMING. SELBY.
Anser ferus, ...	JENYNS.

THE nest of this Goose, which still breeds in the north of Scotland, is made of grass, rushes, leaves, or dry stalks of plants, under cover of some rushes or osiers, and is well lined with feathers. It is large in size, and is located in a marsh, or by the border of a lake or inland sea. The male keeps guard near it while his partner sits.

The eggs are said to be commonly five or six in number, but as many as twelve are said to have been found. They are of a dull yellowish white, smooth, and shining in appearance.

Meyer says: "The female is very careful in covering the eggs with some of the surrounding materials, whenever she leaves the nest for a short time; and it may serve as a safe guide to persons who go in search of the eggs, that if they are uncovered they are forsaken, and are, consequently, not worth leaving in the nest. As soon as the Goose has laid her full number of eggs, she plucks the down off her breast, and disposes it in such a manner among the eggs, that they retain an equal temperature even at the changes



GREY-LAG GOOSE.
BEAN GOOSE.

CLXXXIII

of the weather, or during the short periods when she leaves the nest, once or twice a day."

"In four weeks the young come forth, and after remaining under the mother the entire first day, are subsequently led to the water, and made to swim to some small islet, where they can hide and feed on the young blades of corn, grass, and duckweed. The gander redoubles his watchfulness on the increase of his family, and hardly ever leaves the party. On the approach of danger, the parents resort immediately to the shelter of rushes, standing corn, or long grass, attended by the whole brood; but when surprised on open ground, too far from shelter, the young lay themselves flat on the ground in some rut or hollow, and have even been known to be taken up in the hand, and carried away; but if they are near enough to the water, instinct teaches them to resort to that element for protection, where, by diving or swimming to the shelter of some cover, they may elude observation: on such occasions the parents fly round the intruders, uttering their inharmonious cries." Yarrell says that when the hen birds begin to sit, the males leave them, and collect in flocks near or on the sea. The male and female are considered to unite for life. They return yearly to the same breeding-places, arriving at them in March.

A wild Grey-lag Gander is recorded to have paired with a tame Goose in a farm-yard.

BEAN GOOSE

WILD GOOSE.

PLATE CLXXXIII.—FIGURE II.

Anser segetum, ... NAUMANN.
Anas segetum, ... GMELIN.

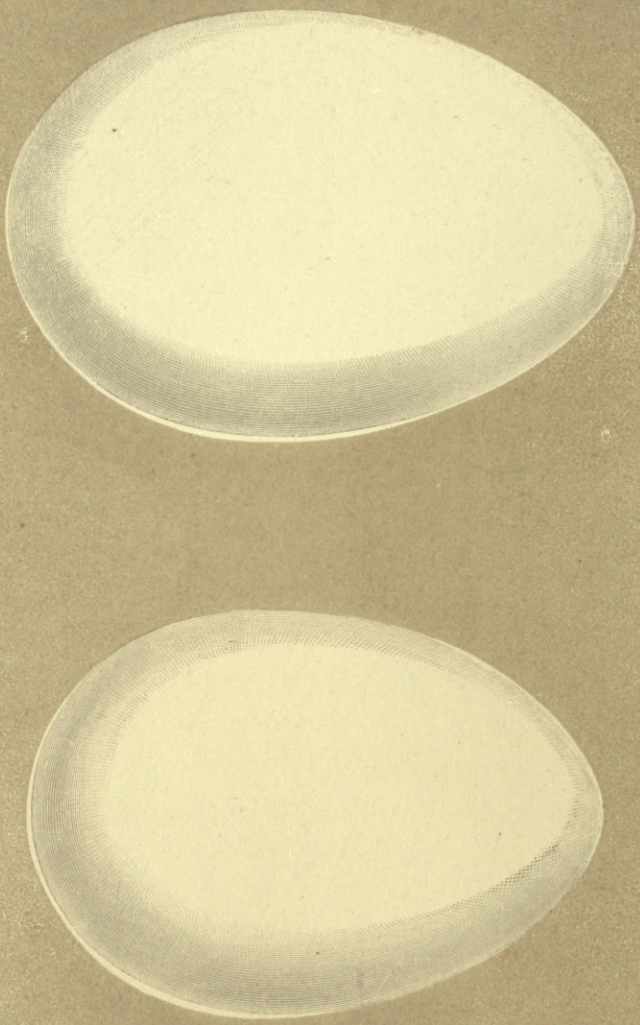
THE Bean Goose does not breed in Great Britain, though common during autumn or winter in the North.

Its nest, usually built in June, is a hollow in a tussock of sedge.

The eggs are of a dull white colour, and three or four in number.

The young, till able to fly, hide themselves, if alarmed, in the neighbouring cover.

In confinement this species has been known to pair with the tame Goose, the progeny partaking in some respects of the character of both parents.



PINK-FOOTED GOOSE.
WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE.

CLXXXIV

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE

PLATE CLXXXIV.—FIGURE I.

Anser phœnicopus, ... BARTLETT.
Anser brachyrhynchus, ... BAILLON.

THE Pink-footed Goose was first distinguished as a British species by Mr. Bartlett in 1838.

Mr. John Macgillivray informs us that "it breeds in great numbers in the small islands of the Sound of Harris, as well as those of the interior of North Uist. This bird was seen in flocks so late as the beginning of May, was observed in pairs among the islands in the Sound about the middle of the month, and had the young fully fledged and strong upon the wing about the end of July. It had again collected into flocks by the beginning of August."

The eggs are of a pure white colour. Eight were laid by one of these Geese kept on the water in St James's Park.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

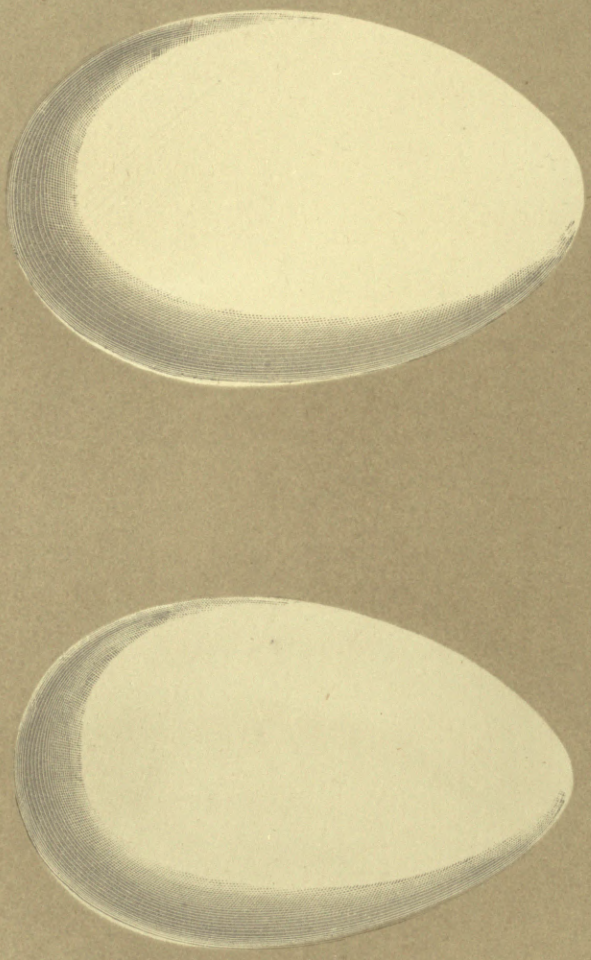
LAUGHING GOOSE—WHITE-FRONTED WILD GOOSE.

PLATE CLXXXIV.—FIGURE II.

Anser albifrons, . . .	PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Anser erythropus, . . .	FLEMING. SELBY.

THE White-fronted Goose is a winter visitant to the British Islands, breeding in the Arctic regions.

It lays from five to seven creamy white eggs, which are deposited in a mere depression in the ground, usually made on a grassy hillock.



BERNACLE GOOSE.
BRENT GOOSE.

CLXXXV

BERNACLE GOOSE

BARNACLE GOOSE—BERNICLE GOOSE.

PLATE CLXXXV.—FIGURE I.

Anser bernicla, ...	FLEMING. SELBY.
Anser leucopsis, ...	JENYNS.
Anas erythropus, . . .	PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Anas leucopsis, ...	TEMMINCK.

THE Bernacle Goose is a visitor to Great Britain from the North during the winter months.

The species appears to breed in large swamps and morasses, but little is known of the exact breeding-ground.

The eggs laid in confinement are of a creamy white colour.

BRENT GOOSE

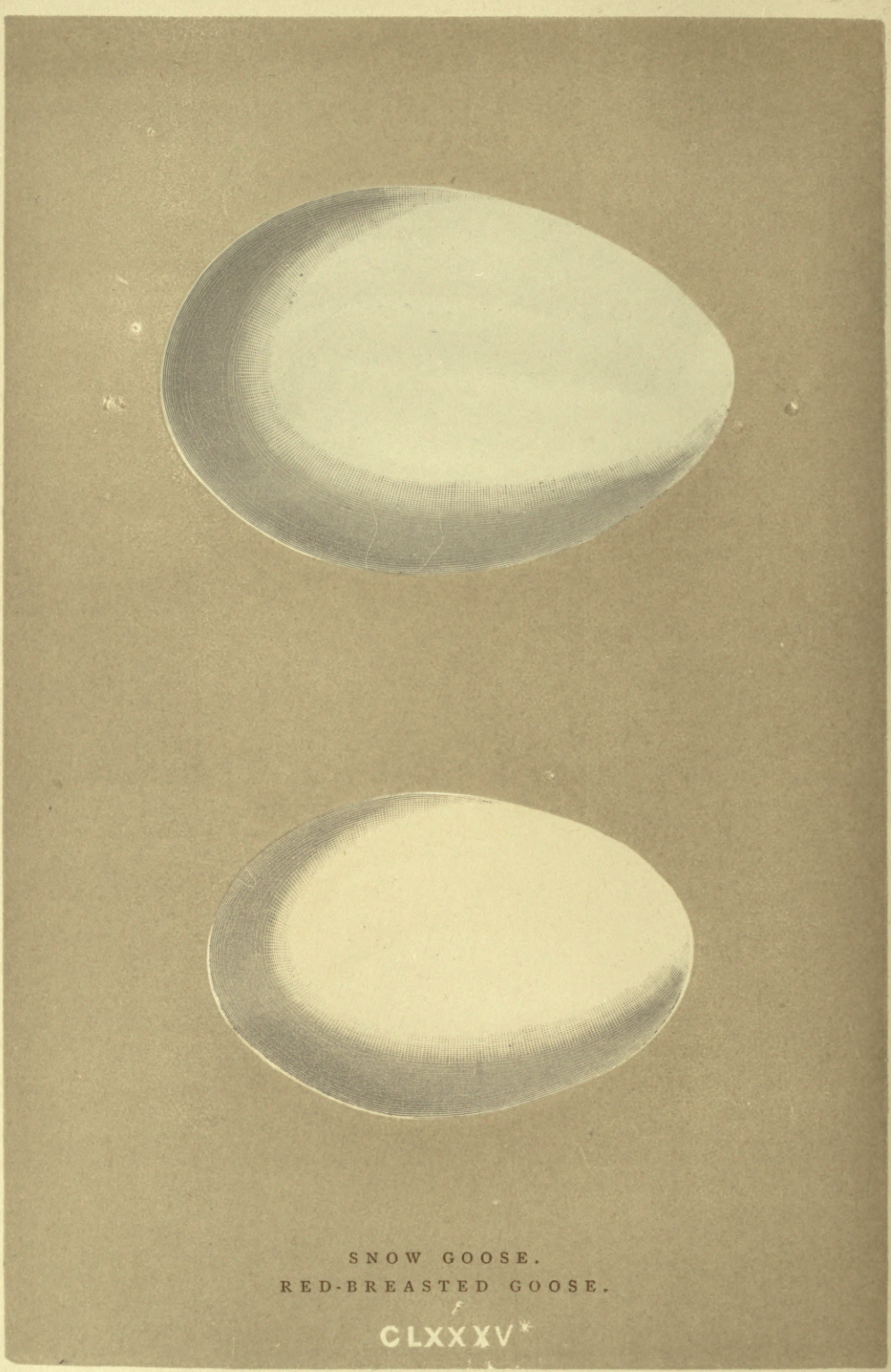
PLATE CLXXXV.—FIGURE II.

Anser brenta, ...	FLEMING. SELBY.
Anser torquatus, . . .	JENYNS.
Anser bernicla, ...	PENNANT. MONTAGU.

THE Brent Goose is a common winter visitor from the extreme north.

Its nest is formed of vegetable materials, such as moss, grass, and stems of saxifrage, collected together in swampy places, with a warm bed of down for the eggs.

These are four in number, white, with a faint tinge of brown.



SNOW GOOSE.
RED-BREASTED GOOSE.

CLXXXV*

SNOW GOOSE

PLATE CLXXXV.*—FIGURE I.

Chen hyperboreus, ... PALLAS.
Chen albatus, ... DRESSER.

THE Snow Goose is an inhabitant of Western North America. Only four specimens have been obtained in Great Britain.

The nest, according to Mr. Macfarlane, is placed in the vicinity of lakes, in a slight hollow made in the sandy soil, and well lined with down.

The eggs, commonly five in number, are rough, and of a dull white colour.

RED-BREASTED GOOSE

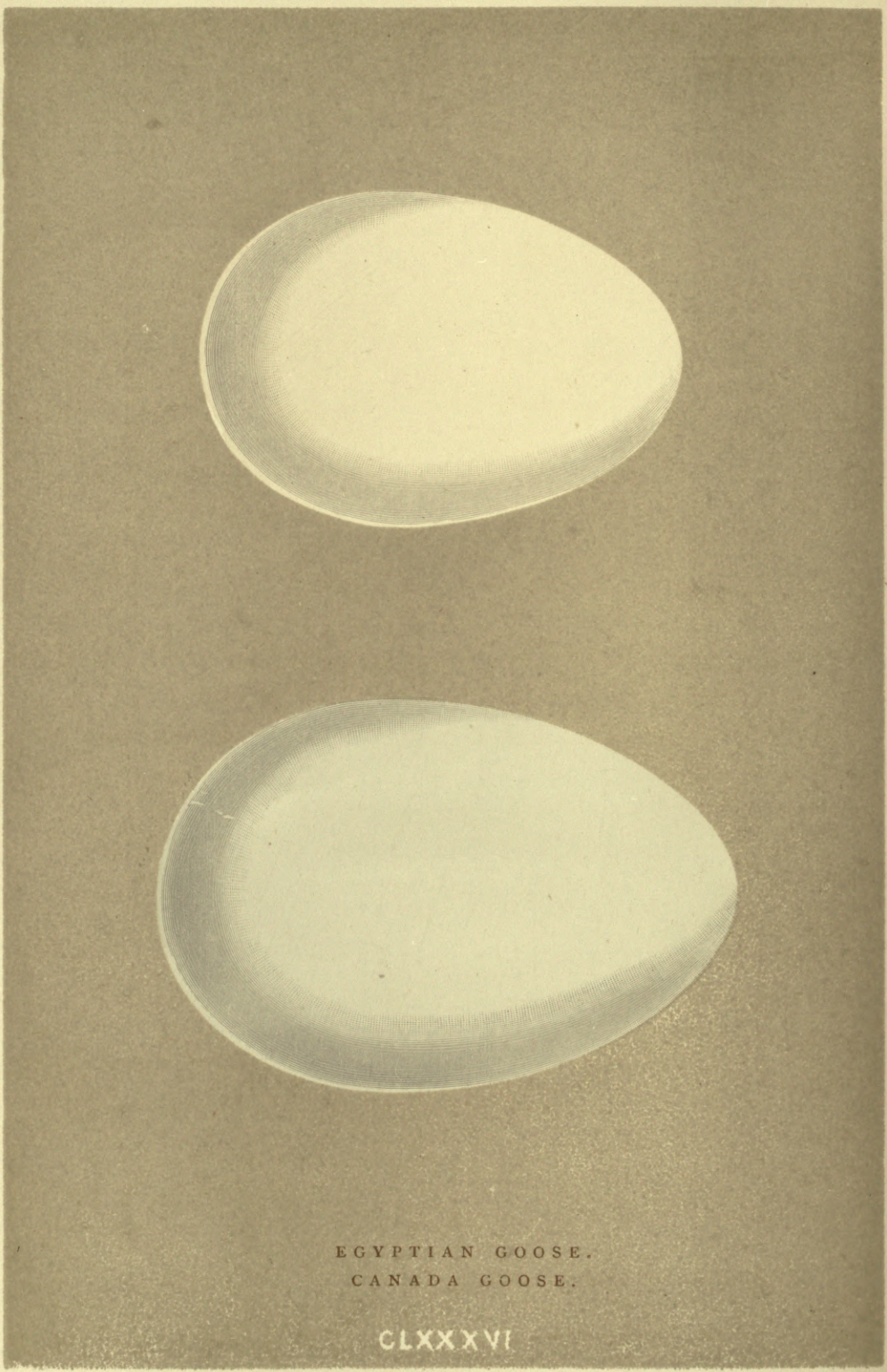
SIBERIAN GOOSE—RED-BREASTED BERNICLE.

PLATE CLXXXV.*—FIGURE II.

Anser ruficollis, ... FLEMING. SELBY.

THIS very rare straggler to Great Britain breeds in the north-east of Siberia. Very little is known of its nesting habits.

Its eggs are dull creamy white all over.



EGYPTIAN GOOSE.
CANADA GOOSE.

CLXXXVI

EGYPTIAN GOOSE

PLATE CLXXXVI.—FIGURE I.

Anser ægyptiacus, ...	JENYNS.
Anas ægyptiaca, ...	BEWICK.
Chenalopex ægyptiaca, ...	GOULD.

THESE birds are believed to pair for life, and are much attached to each other, as also to their young. They make their nest, it is said, of reeds, leaves, and the stems of water-plants, and give it a lining of cotton and feathers. It is always placed near the water.

The eggs are of a dull white colour, with a tinge of buff, six or eight in number.

The figure on the plate is from one laid in the Gardens of the Zoological Society.

The specimens shot in England are all regarded as having escaped from confinement.

CANADA GOOSE

CRAVAT GOOSE.

PLATE CLXXXVI.—FIGURE II.

Anser canadensis, ... FLEMING.
Bernicla canadensis, ... SAUNDERS.

THE Canada Goose, which is an introduced species, though often found at large, makes a large nest of dry plants of different kinds, warmly lined with feathers. It is begun to be built in March or April, and is placed among deep grass, near the water. Audubon mentions his having found one on the stump of a large tree, standing in the middle of a small pond, and at a height of about twenty feet. Occasionally they build in the old nests of other large birds; and while the hen sits her consort keeps sailing about over the water in the neighbourhood, but not coming very close to the nest. On the appearance of any danger he exhibits much anxiety for his family.

The eggs are sat upon by the end of May or the beginning of June. They are generally six or seven in number, but as many as nine have been found: they are of a dull white colour.

The figure on the plate is from a specimen laid in St. James's Park.

HOOPER.

CLXXXVII

HOOPER

WHISTLING SWAN—HOOPING SWAN—ELK.

PLATE CLXXXVII.

Cygnus ferus, ... RAY. WILLUGHBY.
Anas cygnus, ... LINNÆUS. GMELIN.

THE nest of this annual visitor from the North is of a large size, made of reeds, rushes, and other water-plants, and is lined with down, with which the eggs are also covered. It is about a foot and a half in diameter, and is placed not far from the water, often in an island in a lake. It is begun to be made about the middle of March, and is built on the ground.

The eggs are of a pale dull brownish or yellowish white. They vary in number from two to five, though mature females will lay a greater number.

The female sits, it is stated, for forty-two days. She and her mate are united, it is said, for life. They keep the place of their nest free from intrusion, and resolutely repel any intruder.

BEWICK'S SWAN

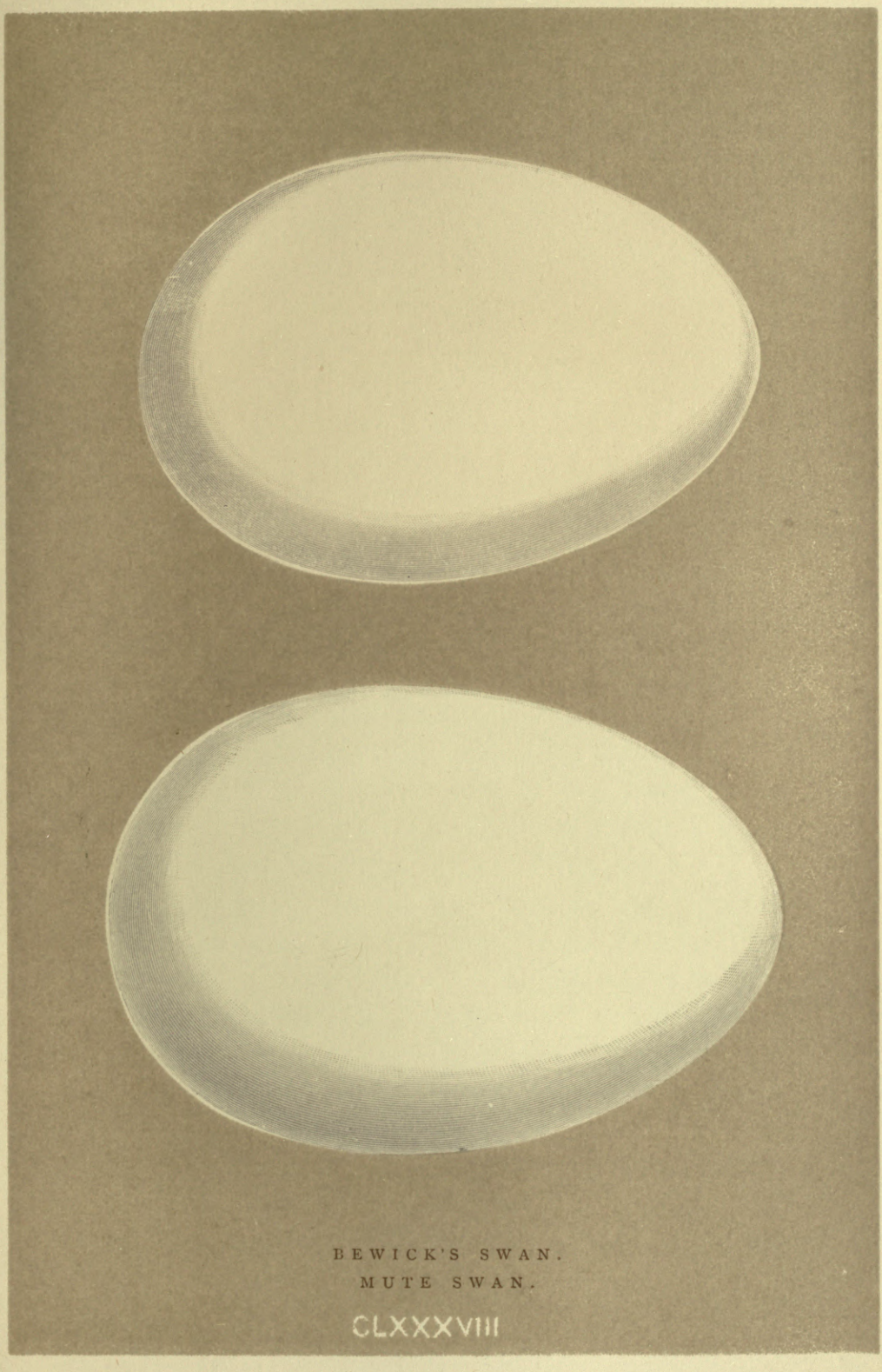
PLATE CLXXXVIII.—FIGURE I.

Cygnus bewickii, ... YARRELL.

THIS species, though of frequent occurrence in Great Britain, especially in severe winters, breeds only in the tundras of Siberia.

The nest is reported by Mr. Seebohm to resemble that of the Hooper.

The eggs, which are smaller than those of that bird, are probably similar in number, but they are slightly less glossy, and are of a white cream colour. The Swan is said to occupy six weeks in incubation.



BEWICK'S SWAN.
MUTE SWAN.

CLXXXVIII

MUTE SWAN

TAME SWAN.

PLATE CLXXXVIII.—FIGURE II.

Cygnus olor, ... NAUMANN.
Anas olor, ... GMELIN.

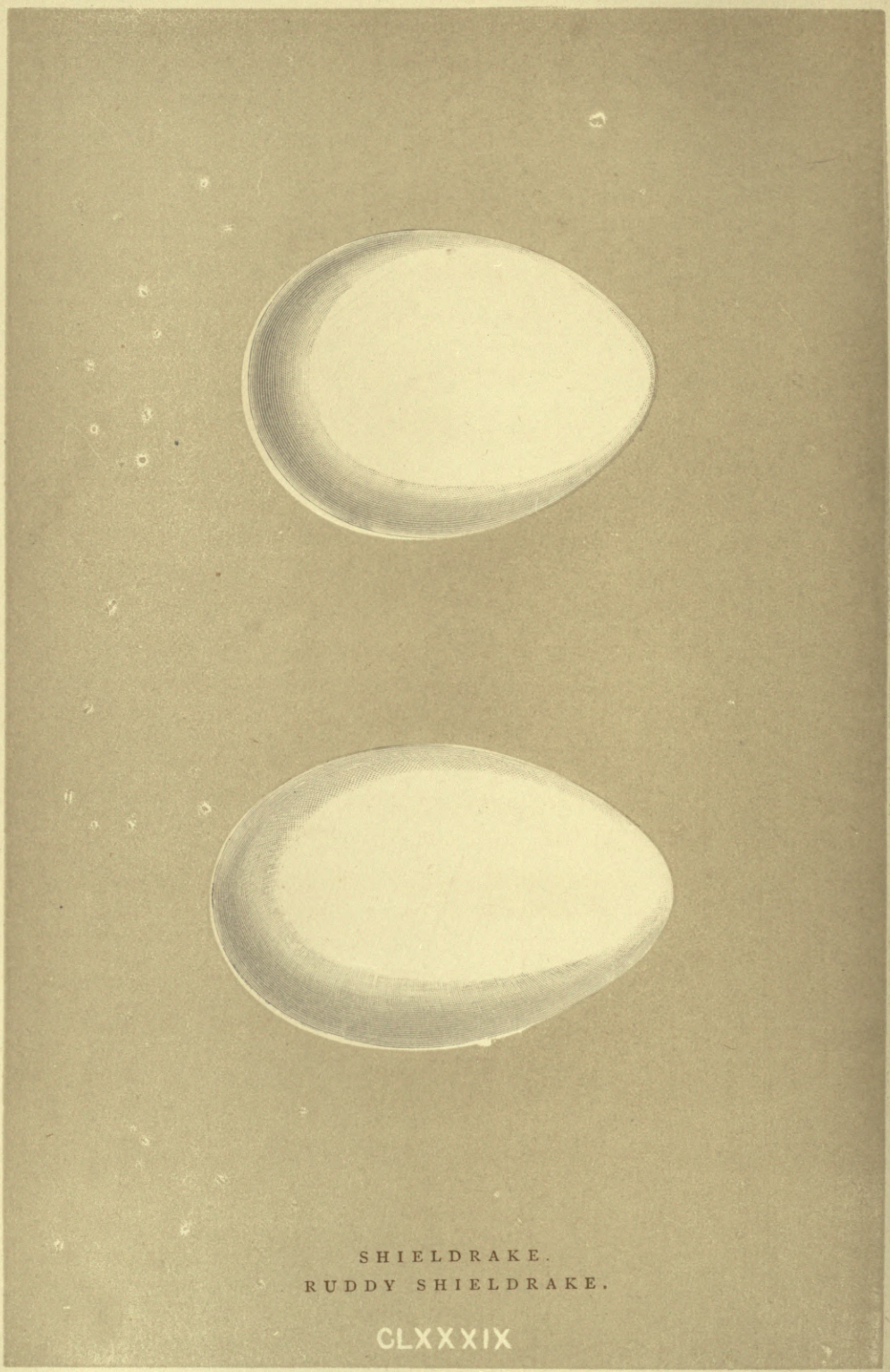
THE Swan disposes its nest on the ground, near the water side, or on some mound on an island in the river or lake. It is made of rushes and flags, and if the water threatens to rise, more materials, which the male bird brings, and the female works in, are added to the deposit under the eggs, which are thus gradually raised further out of danger.

The ordinary number of eggs laid by this Swan is from three to four, sometimes five, occasionally six, and not very rarely eight or even more in number, older birds laying the larger, and younger the fewer numbers respectively. They are of a dull greenish-white colour. At Beddington Park, in Norfolk, twelve eggs were deposited, and the brood all reared, in 1850.

Incubation continues for from five to six weeks. After being hatched for one day, the cygnets follow the guidance of their parents to the water, and have but little instruction

beyond that instinctively given them by nature, in the art of swimming about and feeding themselves. Still, "the attention," says Meyer, "bestowed by the old birds upon the young is incessant; and when fatigued by the strength of the stream, or requiring to be removed to a far distance too great for their young capacity, the hen bird takes the young ones on her back, which she accomplishes by lowering herself a little in the water, and occasionally assisting them to ascend with her foot, and in this manner they are carried in safety to some more desirable spot. The shape of the Swan's back, which is very flat, is well adapted for this purpose; and when her wings are raised, the young ones repose in the most beautiful and safe cradle imaginable."

The nest is repaired and enlarged year after year, and this even to a greater extent than appears to be necessary.



SHIELDRAKE.
RUDDY SHIELDRAKE.

CLXXXIX

SHELDUCK

SHELDRAKE—COMMON SHELDRAKE—BURROW DUCK—
SKELGOOSE—SKEELING GOOSE.

PLATE CLXXXIX.—FIGURE I.

Tadorna cornuta, ...	GMELIN.
Tadorna vulpanser, ...	MACGILLIVRAY.
Anas tadorna, ...	LINNÆUS.

THE Sheldrake builds in rabbit-burrows and other hollows in the earth, often as much as ten or twelve feet from the entrance; also in holes in rocks. Some down plucked from their own breasts is the lining with which the nest is fitted, the remainder being dry grass.

The eggs are seven to twelve, or even more, it is said, in number; but these, in such cases, may possibly have been the produce of two birds. They are nearly perfectly white, having only a very faint creamy tinge, and are smooth and shining.

The duck sits about twenty-six to thirty days, her mate keeping watch hard by, but not taking her place even while she seeks her food.

The young, when hatched, are either carried by their parents in their bills to the water, or soon make their way thither themselves. They hide away at the approach of danger; the old birds then flying off.

RUDDY SHELDUCK

PLATE CLXXXIX.—FIGURE II.

Tadorna casarca, ...	LINNÆUS.
Tadorna rutila, ...	YARRELL.
Anas rutila, ...	BEWICK.

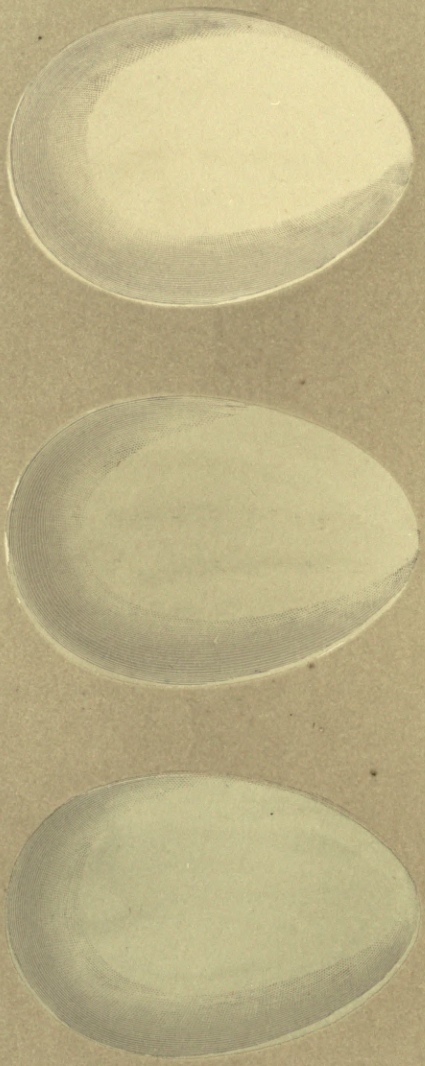
THIS species, a rare straggler to the British Islands, builds in holes in river banks, or in hollow trees or fallen logs.

The nest is lined with feathers of the bird itself, the remainder being any sort of stalks and sticks.

The eggs are white, and nine to sixteen in number. They are highly polished.

The young are often carried to the water in the bill of the mother.

The Ruddy Shelduck breeds in the south of Europe, from Spain to the Caspian.



SHOVELER.
GADWALL.
PINTAIL.

CXC

SHOVELER

BROAD BILL — BLUE-WINGED SHOVELER — COMMON SHOVELER — RED-BREASTED SHOVELER — SHOVELER DUCK.

PLATE CXC.—FIGURE I.

Anas clypeata, ...	YARRELL.
Spatula clypeata, ...	LINNÆUS.
Rhyncaspis clypeata, ...	MACGILLIVRAY.

THE nest of the Shoveler is built beside rivers, lakes, and other waters, but always on dry ground. It is made of fine grass, commingled with down from the bird itself. In some cases the bare earth or sand is scarcely covered with any materials; in others, a tuft of grass is laid in. After the female has begun to sit, she covers the eggs with down plucked from her own body.

The eggs are as many as eight to twelve or fourteen in number. They are of a pale buffish-white colour, with a tinge of olive.

Incubation lasts three weeks. Only one brood is reared in the year. The young leave the nest almost immediately after being hatched, and repair with their mother to the water.

These birds have repeatedly bred in the Gardens of the Zoological Society, London.

The Shoveler is a well-known visitor to England, many pairs even remaining to breed.

GADWALL

GADWALL DUCK—COMMON GADWALL.

PLATE CXC.—FIGURE II.

Anas strepera, ... LINNÆUS.
Chaulelasmus streperus, ... DRESSER.

THE nest of the Gadwall, rarely found in England, is placed among reeds, sedge, rushes, or other aquatic herbage, such as vegetates by the sides of pools, meres, and lakes, and in marshy places. It is composed of dry grass, and the eggs are covered with down.

The eggs are from eight to ten or twelve in number. They are of a uniform buff white colour, tinged with green when just laid.

The birds have repeatedly bred in the Gardens of the Zoological Society.

PINTAIL

COMMON PINTAIL—PINTAIL DUCK.

PLATE CXC.—FIGURE III.

Anas acuta, ...	LINNÆUS.
Querquedula acuta, ...	MACGILLIVRAY.
Dafila acuta, ...	DRESSER.

THE nest of this species is placed usually in coarse herbage, by the margin of or at no great distance from water, lakes, ponds, and seas, and is composed of grass and reeds, with a lining of down. Though generally a migrant, it breeds sparingly in the British Isles.

From seven to nine or ten eggs are laid. These are pale buffish green in colour. The young are hatched in about twenty-three days. They at once repair to the water.

These birds have repeatedly bred in confinement. Montagu has recorded several instances of this. Lord Stanley had a female Pintail which paired with a Wigeon, and had eggs two successive seasons; the Hon. Twisleton Fiennes another, a male, which paired with a common Duck.

WILD DUCK

COMMON WILD DUCK—MALLARD (THE MALE BIRD)

PLATE CXCI.—FIGURE II.

Anas boschas, ... PENNANT. MONTAGU.

THE nest of this species, constructed the latter end of April, is placed, unless in a few rare exceptional instances, on the ground in a dry place, often near, but on the other hand not unfrequently at a distance from water; in some cases under a hedge, and in others in an open field, or in a wood, but under shelter of some kind. It is small in size, little more than six inches in the inner width, and regularly formed of dry grass or other vegetable materials; the lining being down, to the thickness of between two and three inches.

The greater number of these birds go north to breed; but not a few remain here all the year, and build.

The eggs are eight to twelve in number; and as many as fifteen are said to have been found in one nest. They are smooth, and of a very pale green colour.

The old birds are supposed to remain in pairs throughout the year, but the male leaves the female as soon as she begins to sit. The hen covers the eggs with down and other substances when she leaves the nest.

GARGANEY.
WILD DUCK.

CXCI

As Mr. Hewitson observes, "We should scarcely expect to find the nest of the Wild Duck in a tree, and yet several instances have occurred in which it has chosen for itself a site thus elevated, and apparently uncongenial to its usual habits. Mr. Kute has met with a nest of this species in the grounds of Castle Howard, in a large oak tree, twenty-five feet above the ground, and fifty yards from the edge of the water. Mr. Marmaduke Tunstall speaks of one at Etchingham, in Sussex, which was built in an oak tree twenty-five feet above the ground, and contained nine eggs; and Mr. Selby says that a Wild Duck laid its eggs in the nest of a Crow, at least thirty feet from the ground." This was at Madeley, in Staffordshire. The drake was also seen to perch on a bough near her, and occasionally in her absence sat on the nest. Others have been found at a height of ten and eighteen feet.

In Daniel's "Rural Sports," mention is made of the deserted nest of a Hawk in a large oak having been appropriated and repaired by a Wild Duck, and two eggs laid in it; and Montagu speaks of one built between the trunk and the boughs of a large elm tree, and of another in a willow tree overhanging some water. Meyer mentions one found by him on the stump of an old willow tree; and Mr. G. B. Clarke, one built on the fragment of a broken branch of an oak about twelve feet from the ground, and a foot and a half from the trunk. Another, recorded by Mr. A. Foster-Melliar, containing nine eggs, was placed in a pollard willow tree, twelve feet from the ground-surface, and a hundred yards from any water. A nest was found at Thornton Abbey, in Lincolnshire, near the top of a large ivy-covered ash tree; and another in an old ruin. Sir William Jardine mentions one built on the top of a pre-

cipitous rock, and Audubon one in the middle of some corn, a mile from any water. Bishop Stanley records an instance of a nest placed on the roof of a lowly thatched cottage by the waterside, in the Regent's Park, London. A pair built near Nunburnholme, in May 1876, a full half-mile from our stream or any other water.

GARGANEY

GARGANEY DUCK—GARGANEY TEAL.

PLATE CXCI.—FIGURE I.

Querquedula circia, ... SAUNDERS.
Querquedula circia, ... SELBY.

THE Garganey visits England early in the spring, breeding, if undisturbed, about the middle of April, or towards the end of the month or the beginning of May.

The nest is made of dry grass and rushes, mixed with the down of the bird itself. It is placed in low and marshy situations, among reeds and rushes, and by the borders of inland waters and rivers, among the adjoining rank herbage.

The eggs are from eight to ten or even twelve in number, buff in colour.

Incubation continues for about twenty-one or twenty-two days.

The young birds, as soon as hatched, follow their mother to the nearest water.

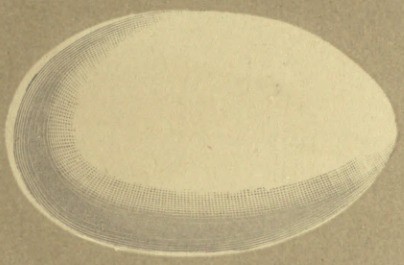
BLUE-WINGED TEAL

PLATE CXCI.*

Querquedula discors, ... LINNÆUS.

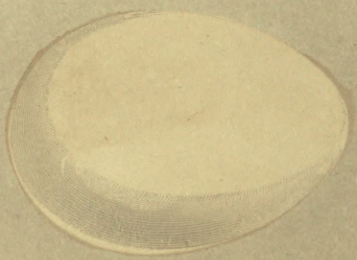
THE Blue-winged Teal is a North American species that has only occurred on one or two occasions in Great Britain.

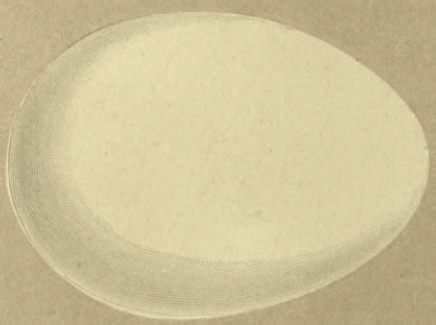
The eggs, from eight to twelve in number, are clear ivory-white in colour.



BLUE-WINGED TEAL.

CXCI*





TEAL.
WIGEON.

CXCII

TEAL

COMMON TEAL.

PLATE CXCII.—FIGURE I.

Querquedula crecca, . . . SELBY.
Anas crecca, ... PENNANT. MONTAGU.

OF these birds the greater number retire to northern regions to build, but others remain with us.

The nest, which is usually built by the margin of an inland lake, but sometimes near the sea-shore, and in clefts of rocks and stony places, is placed among and constructed of heath or grass, or other vegetable substances, in moorland and marshy districts, in rushy or boggy places. There is a thick lining of down and feathers: the whole is of rather large size.

The eggs are from eight to ten or even up to fifteen in number. They are buffish or creamy white, sometimes with a slight tinge of green.

WIGEON

COMMON WIGEON.

PLATE CXCII.—FIGURE II.

Anas penelope, ... PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Mareca penelope, . . . SELBY. JENYNS.

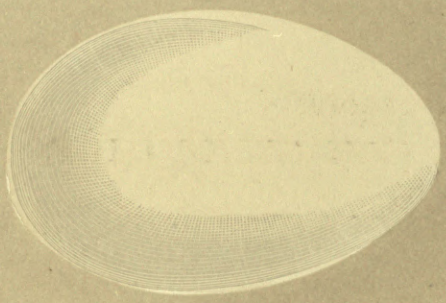
THESE birds visit northern countries for the most part to breed—Norway, Sweden, and others.

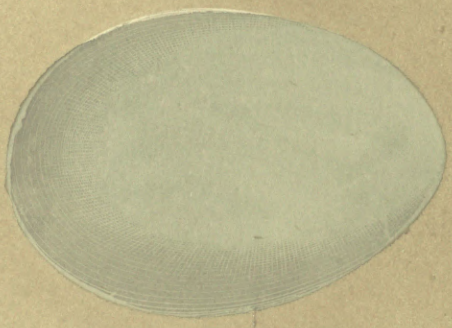
Mr. Selby and Sir Willian Jardine have found their nests in Sutherlandshire, on Loch Laigal, Loch Hope, Loch Shin, and Loch Naver, and also on smaller waters near Lairg.

They build among rushes, grass, flags, and reeds, or tufts of heather, where there are such, and use the former materials and leaves in the construction of the nest, the lining being supplied with down from the bird's own body. The situation chosen is the neighbourhood of some lake or river, and the nest itself is cleverly concealed.

The eggs are from seven to ten, or, Meyer says, ten or twelve in number. They are of a fine cream-white colour.

When the hen bird begins to sit, the male retires into seclusion. The incubation of the eggs continues for twenty-four or twenty-five days. The young, as soon almost as hatched, betake themselves to the water.





AMERICAN WIGEON.
STELLER'S EIDER.

CXCII*

AMERICAN WIGEON

PLATE CXCII.*—FIGURE I.

Anas americana, ... WILSON. AUDUBON.
Mareca americana, . . . STEPHENS.

THE nest of this doubtful British species is stated to be always on high dry ground.

The eggs are from six to ten in number, and of a pale buff or ivory-white colour.

STELLER'S EIDER

WESTERN EIDER—WESTERN POCHARD—WESTERN DUCK.

PLATE CXCII.*—FIGURE II.

Anas dispar, ...	TEMMINCK.
Polysticta stelleri, ...	PALLAS.
Somateria dispar, ...	YARRELL.

THIS species, which has only twice occurred in England, breeds, it is said, on the shores of the Arctic Ocean, North Russia, on high and steep rocks.

The egg is of a uniform pale dusky green colour all over.

EIDER DUCK.
KING DUCK.

CXCIII

EIDER DUCK

ST. CUTHBERT'S DUCK.

PLATE CXCIII.—FIGURE I.

Somateria mollissima, . . . FLEMING. SELBY.
Anas mollissima, . . . PENNANT. MONTAGU.

THE down with which the nests of these birds are lined is an article of commerce, and in the countries where they are plentiful the people rob the nests two or three times in the season. The eggs are also taken at the same time, so as to make the birds lay again, "but it is generally found that if they are robbed more than twice, they begin to desert the place, and if pillaged oftener they quit it entirely."

The Eider Duck begins to pair in March, and to lay about the beginning of the last week in May. Incubation lasts from three weeks to a month. The young, as soon as hatched, are led by the dam to the water, and in some instances it appears certain that they must be carried by her in her bill. The male bird at this period leaves his mate, and repairs to the open sea.

In England the Eiders build so far south as the Fern Islands and Coquet Island. In one of the former the

remains of an old lighthouse appears to be a favourite resort, and within the ruined and deserted walls several have been accustomed to lay. They seem to prefer islands for the purpose, but also to make use of hollows in rocks on the mainland, and sand-banks along the sea-shore. Great numbers of nests are frequently placed close together, so that it is not easy to walk among them.

It seems that at first the nest has only grass, lichens, or sea-weed for its composition, but when all, or nearly all, the eggs are laid, down is plucked by the female from her breast and daily added, the quantity being thus successively increased. If the bird leaves her charge for a time, the eggs are carefully covered over and concealed, either with down or grass and leaves.

The eggs, of a light green colour, are usually five to eight in number, but not very unfrequently as many as eight or even ten are found together, two birds having laid in the same place. Both, it appears in that case, sit together in an amicable manner.

KING DUCK

KING EIDER.

PLATE CXCIII.—FIGURE II.

Anas spectabilis, . . . PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Somateria spectabilis, . . . FLEMING. SELBY.

THE nest of the King Duck, which is rarely found in the most northern portions of the British Islands, is placed on rocks near the sea. It is lined with the down of the female, and composed externally of sea-weeds, grass, or mosses.

The eggs are of a pale greenish-grey colour. They are from four to six in number. The male bird leaves the care of the eggs to the hen, and repairs to the sea.

VELVET SCOTER

PLATE CXCIV.—FIGURE II.

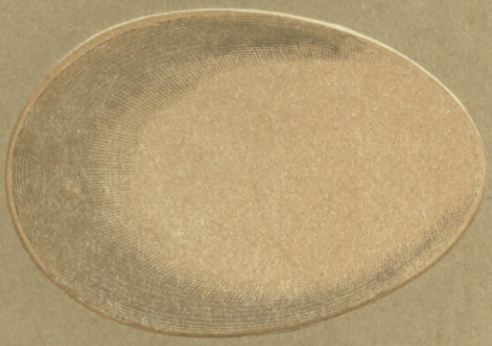
Anas fusca, ... PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Œdemia fusca, ... FLEMING. SELBY.

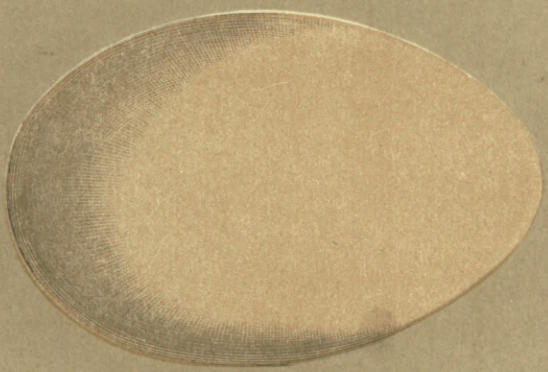
THIS regular winter visitor breeds occasionally in Scotland.

Writing of this species in America, Audubon says that they "begin to form their nests from the 1st to the 10th of June. The nests are placed within a few feet of the borders of small lakes, a mile or two distant from the sea, and usually under the low boughs of bushes, of the twigs of which, with mosses and various plants matted together, they are formed. They are large and almost flat, several inches thick, with some feathers of the female, but no down."

The eggs are usually eight or ten in number, of a uniform pale cream-colour.

The males leave the females after incubation has commenced.





SCOTER.
VELVET SCOTER.

CXCIV

SCOTER

COMMON SCOTER—BLACK SCOTER.

PLATE CXCIV.—FIGURE I.

Anas nigra, ... PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Œdemia nigra, ... FLEMING. SELBY.

THIS Duck breeds in several of the northern countries. The nest is described as being placed by the side of water in the most unfrequented situations, often far inland, among brushwood, in the heather, or on stony ground; and made of grasses, twigs, and the dry leaves and stalks of plants, under the shelter of a willow or birch, or in a dry tuft of herbage, the down of the bird itself being made use of for lining.

After the female has laid, the male birds collect together in flocks, and repair to the coast.

The eggs are from six to nine in number, of a pale greyish-buff colour.

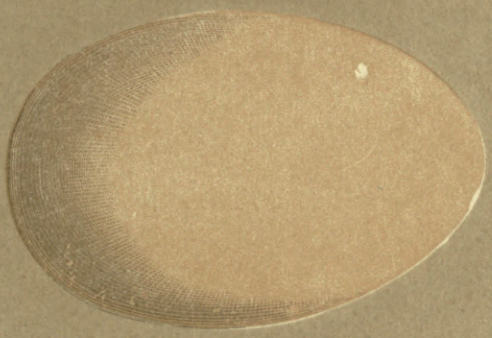
SURF SCOTER

PLATE CXCV.—FIGURE II.

Anas perspicillata, ... TEMMINCK.
Œdemia perspicillata, . . . FLEMING. SELBY.

THE nest of this rare visitor is placed on the coasts of inland seas, and by the borders of lakes. It is formed of dry and withered weeds, flags, and grasses, in the midst of a hummock or tuft of grass. The down of the bird itself serves for the lining. The hollow of the interior is said by Audubon to be six inches across, by two and a half in depth.

The eggs are six to eight in number, and of an oval shape; their colour pale yellowish or cream white.



RED-CRESTED WHISTLING DUCK.
SURF SCOTER.

CXCV

RED-CRESTED WHISTLING DUCK

RED-CRESTED DUCK—RED-CRESTED POCHARD.

PLATE CXCV.—FIGURE II.

Anas rufina, ... TEMMINCK.
Fuligula rufina, ... GOULD. SELBY.

THE nest of this bird is built among rushes, or on reedy islands, in the south of Europe and North Africa.

The eggs are stated to be seven to nine in number, and according to Saunders "of a brilliant green colour, which soon fades after they are blown."

"The young are able to fly about the beginning of July; the female is much attached to her young, but the male leaves the nursery as soon as the female begins to sit."

POCHARD

RED-HEADED POCHARD—COMMON POCHARD—POCHARD DUCK—DUN BIRD.

PLATE CXCVI.—FIGURE II.

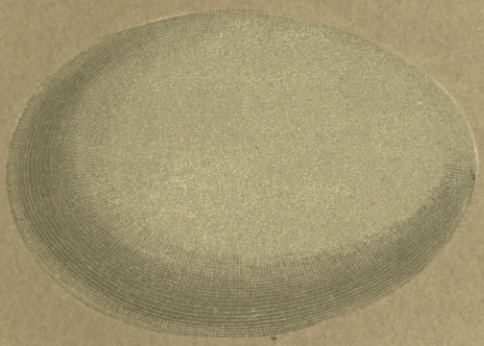
Anas ferina, ...	PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Fuligula ferina, . . .	SELBY. JENYNS.
Nyroca ferina, ...	FLEMING.

MEYER says: "About the end of April the Red-headed Pochards pair; there are no quarrels between the male birds, for the female is said to choose her own mate, and the pair remain inseparable, and do not quit the spot until the young brood are hatched and ready to follow them towards the larger lakes, &c., where they consider them out of danger."

The nest of the Pochard is made among rushes or other coarse herbage, and is lined with feathers. Many nests are placed near each other, in suitable localities, such as osier beds or grassy places.

The eggs are from eight or ten to twelve or thirteen in number, and of a dull drab colour.

The Pochard has bred in the Gardens of the Zoological Society.



FERRUGINOUS DUCK.
POCHARD.

CXCVI

FERRUGINOUS DUCK

WHITE-EYED DUCK—RED DUCK—CASTANEOUS DUCK.

PLATE CXCVI.—FIGURE I.

Fuligula nyroca, ... YARRELL.
Nyroca ferruginea, ... DRESSER.

THIS Duck, a rare straggler, like the others of its kindred builds its nest near rivers, ponds, and marshes. It breeds in the south of Europe. The male bird leaves the female soon after she has begun to sit. The nest is well supplied with a down lining from the breast of the parent.

The eggs of this species are pale buff with a slight tinge of green, and generally ten in number. They are laid by the beginning of June, and are hatched in twenty-two or twenty-three days.

The Ferruginous Duck has bred in the Gardens of the Zoological Society, London; and also when paired with the Tufted Duck.

SCAUP

SCAUP DUCK—SCAUP POCHARD.

PLATE CXCVII.—FIGURE II.

Anas marila, ... PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Fuligula marila, . . . SELBY. JENYNS.

THE Scaup, a common winter visitor, builds among the brushwood or other vegetation that is found in swampy grounds, or by lakes, or in stony places near these. Very little nest is formed, the materials, such as they are, being dry grasses, stalks, and leaves, but the eggs are well covered with down. They are, it is said, from five or six to eight or ten in number, of a dull yellowish-brown or clay buff colour.

The bird, which breeds throughout the Arctic regions, begins to lay in May. Some few pairs stay and breed in Scotland.

TUFTED DUCK.
SCAUP.

CXCVII

TUFTED DUCK

TUFTED POCHARD.

PLATE CXCVII.—FIGURE I.

Anas fuligula, ... PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Fuligula cristata, ... SELBY. JENYNS.

THESE birds breed regularly but sparingly in England and Scotland, along the stony shores of the sides of inland waters, among the cover of the vegetation, more or less thick, with which they are usually bordered. The nest is not made till the end of May or beginning of June. It is a mere hollow composed of dry grass or sedge lined with down.

The eggs vary in number from eight to thirteen. They are of a pale buff colour, with a tinge of green.

The male bird leaves the female after she has begun to sit.

This species has paired with the Ferruginous Duck, in the Gardens of the Zoological Society.

LONG-TAILED DUCK

NORTHERN HARELD—CALLOO—SHARP-TAILED DUCK.

PLATE CXCVIII.—FIGURE I.

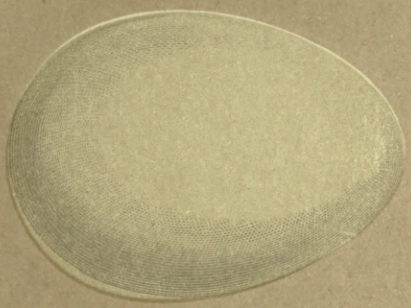
Anas glacialis, ...	LINNÆUS.
Fuligula glacialis, ...	YARRELL.
Harelda glacialis, ...	MACGILLIVRAY.

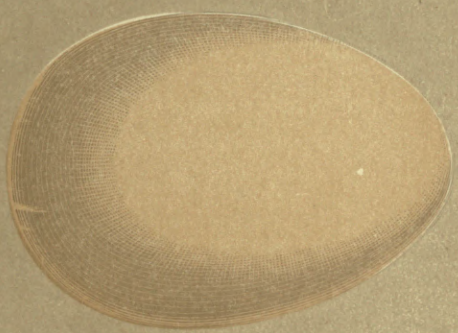
THE Long-tailed Duck is a circumpolar bird, breeding usually beyond the forest growth in the Arctic regions, and occasionally in Shetland. It nests about inland lakes, ponds, and bogs, among the plants and low brushwood that afford cover near the water's edge.

The nest is nothing more than a few stems of reeds, rushes, or grass, lined with the down of the mother bird, the quantity being added to as the number of eggs increases. Many breed in the same vicinity.

"About the latter end of April," says Meyer, "the birds arrive in pairs at their breeding-places, and in May the female lays. By the end of June or beginning of July the young make their appearance, and are soon led to the sea-shore, and instructed to swim, dive, and provide for themselves. The male, who leaves the care of the nursery to his mate, joins his family on their arriving at that locality, and accompanies them in their migratory journey and winter sojourn."

The eggs are usually from six to ten in number, but twelve have been found. They are of a pale greenish buff.





LONG-TAILED DUCK.
HARLEQUIN DUCK.

CXCVIII

HARLEQUIN DUCK

HARLEQUIN GARROT.

PLATE CXCVIII.—FIGURE II.

Cosmonetta histrionica, . .	DRESSER.
Anas histrionica, . . .	PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Clangula histrionica, . .	FLEMING. SELBY.

THE Harlequin Duck, of which only two authentic occurrences in Scotland are on record, breeds in Iceland and the Arctic regions, but there is no trustworthy information regarding its nest. Dresser says that he does not know any careful description of it, but that it is doubtless a depression scratched in the ground and lined with herbage and the down of the bird itself. Krüper says it makes its nest in Iceland on the ground, close to the water's edge, and carefully concealed.

The number of eggs varies from eight to ten; they are of a warm creamy colour, and very smooth in texture.

GOLDEN-EYE

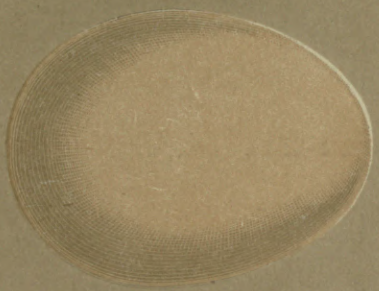
GARROT—RATTLE-WINGS.

PLATE CXCIX.—FIGURE II.

Anas clangula, ...	LINNÆUS.
Clangula glaucion, ...	DRESSER.
Clangula chrysophthalma, . . .	MACGILLIVRAY.

THE Golden-Eye is a common and regular winter visitor, breeding generally in the northern regions, in the vicinity of lakes and rivers, and marshes. The Laplanders place boxes with holes in them in the trees in these localities for the birds to build in, and thus procure the eggs, for the cotes are sure to be resorted to for the purpose of laying in. The nest is made of rushes and other herbage, lined with down. Mr. Hewitson found one in a hole in a tree, ten or twelve feet from the ground.

The eggs are of a greyish-green hue, and from ten to fourteen in number.



SMEW.
GOLDEN EYE.

CXCIX

SMEW

LOUGH DIVER—WHITE NUN—WHITE MERGANSER—WHITE-HEADED GOOSANDER.

PLATE CXCIX.—FIGURE I.

Mergus albellus, . . . PENNANT. MONTAGU.

THE nest of the Smew, first discovered by Wolley in Finnish Lapland, is made of dry grass, and lined with the down of the bird itself. It is placed on the ground, upon the banks of lakes and rivers, not far from the water, or in a hollow in a tree.

The eggs, said to be eight or ten in number, are cream-coloured, like those of the Wigeon.

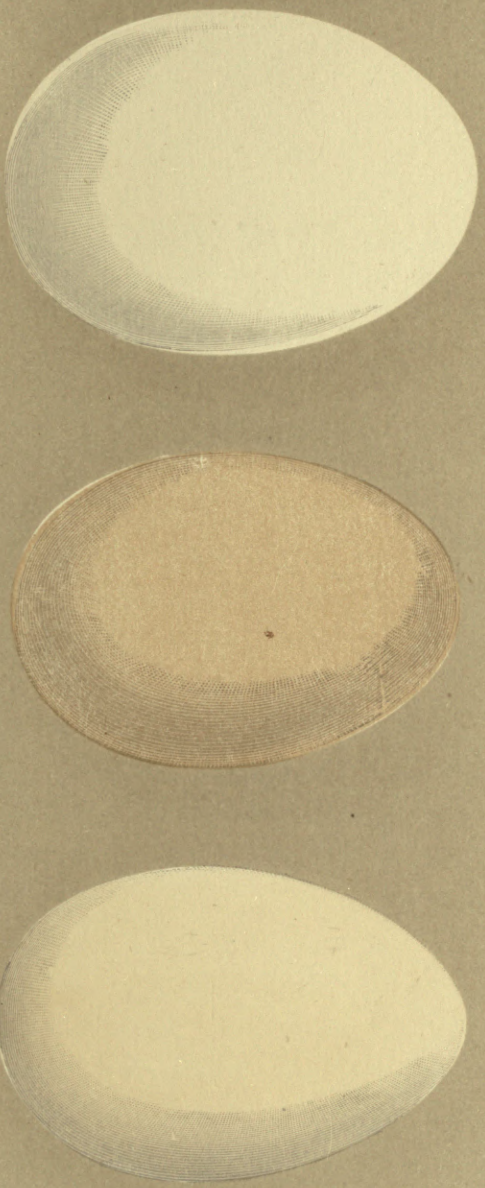
HOODED MERGANSER

PLATE CC.—FIGURE I.

Mergus cucullatus, .	SELBY. JENYNS. EYTON.
Merganser cucullatus, .	MACGILLIVRAY.
Mergus fuscus, . .	LATHAM. GOULD. TEMMINCK.

THE nest of this very rare straggler from North America is invariably placed in the hollows of trees, by the margins of lakes and rivers. It is formed of grass and other herbage, lined with dark-coloured down from the breast of the bird itself.

The eggs, five to eight in number, and of a pure ivory-white colour, are laid in May and hatched in June.



HOODED MERGANSER.
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER.
GOOSANDER.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER

RED-BREASTED GOOSANDER.

PLATE CC.—FIGURE II.

Mergus serrator, . . . PENNANT. MONTAGU.

THE Red-breasted Merganser breeds in Scotland and North Ireland, but is only a winter visitor to England. The places chosen for nesting are usually in the neighbourhood of lakes and rivers, among reeds, rushes, heather, or brushwood.

These birds build preferably on small islands in lakes, whether of fresh or salt water, preferring such as have a growth of wood, the nest being placed a few yards from the edge, at the foot of a tree, or under the shelter of brushwood, in the midst of fern, grass, nettles, or other wild vegetation. Also in other situations, as among broken lava in Iceland, or in a hollow on the bare ground. It has been known in a bleak and unsheltered situation, on an island in the sea, at some distance from the mainland. The materials of its composition are moss, flags, grass, small roots, and feathers, placed carelessly together, and intermixed with the down of the bird, added to, it appears, as incubation advances.

The eggs are from six to nine in number, and of a drab or brownish fawn-colour. As soon as the females begin to

sit, the males quit them for the season. The species appears to be late in its nidification, scarcely beginning to build before the end of May, or the early part of June. The bird sits very close, and will almost allow herself to be trodden on before she will leave the nest.

GOOSANDER

GREEN-HEADED GOOSANDER—DUN DIVER.

PLATE CC.—FIGURE III.

Mergus merganser, ... LINNÆUS.
Mergus castor, ... MACGILLIVRAY.

THE Goosander breeds sparingly in the north of Scotland. It builds on small islands in fresh-water lochs in the neighbourhood of the sea, and near the water's edge.

The nest, which is placed under the cover of bushes, in long grass, among stones, or in the hollow of the stump of a decayed tree, is large altogether, being raised to a height of seven or eight inches, on a mass of dead weeds, but the inner and more finished part is only about seven inches and a half across, and four in depth. It is composed of dry grass and small roots, rather neatly twined together, and lined with the down of the bird.

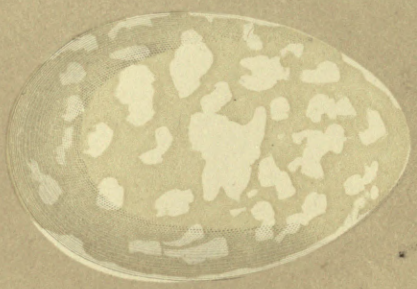
It breeds, says Dresser, late in April or early in May, and makes its nest near water, either on the ground or in a hollow of a tree, frequently depositing its eggs in the nest-boxes hung up by the peasants in the north of Scandinavia or Russia.

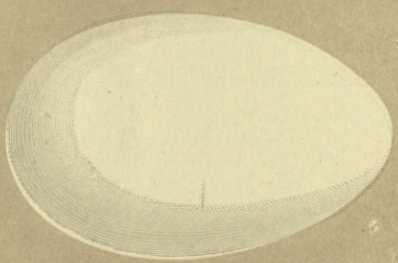
The eggs, of a long oval shape, are from eight to twelve in number, or more, though rarely; if removed from the

nest, as many as thirty have been successively laid: their colour a uniform buff white or creamy white.

The female has been seen to carry her young on her back, in the same way as described of the Swan. She leads them to the water as soon as they are hatched, or carries them thither in her bill if the nest has been in the hollow of a tree, and at once commences their education.

The males appear to leave the females when the latter have begun to sit, and do not rejoin them till the summer is over.





GREAT CRESTED GREBE.
RED-NECKED GREBE.

CCI

GREAT CRESTED GREBE

TIPPET GREBE—CRESTED GREBE—GREATER LOON—LOON—GAUNT.

PLATE CCI.—FIGURE I.

Podiceps cristatus,	. .	PENNANT. MACGILLIVRAY.
Colymbus cornutus,	. .	BRISSON.
Colymbus cristatus,	. .	LINNÆUS.
Podicipes cristatus,	. .	SAUNDERS.

THE Loon breeds in fresh water, and makes its nest, such as it is, early in the year—in the month of April. It is a very large and careless mass of weeds, flags, and other water-plants, partly sunk under, and partly raised above the water, the top being slightly hollowed. The general width is about a foot or a little over, the height about half as much.

The eggs are three or four, and very rarely five. Four appears to be the usual average number, but one of them is generally addled. They are concealed by fragments of rushes placed over them, and if these be removed others are added. Their colour is white or greenish obscured by chalky white; from the structure of the nest, they soon become soiled and discoloured.

Yarrell says: "The parent birds are very careful of their

young, taking them down with them for security under their wings when they dive." According to Meyer the birds pair for life, and haunt the same nesting-place year after year, both assisting in the work of nidification. The young swim about as soon as hatched.

RED-NECKED GREBE

PLATE CCI.—FIGURE II.

Podiceps rubricollis, . . . PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Podiceps griseigena, . . . BODDAERT.

THE nest of this regular British visitor is to be found in Siberia and Turkestan. It is a floating structure similar to that of the Great Crested Grebe. It is made among reeds, flags, and rushes, on the borders of fresh-water lakes and ponds, and is composed of decayed water-plants. It is placed upon the water, and attached to the growing vegetation.

The eggs of the Red-necked Grebe are dull white. They are three or four in number.

Several pairs of these birds breed in the same locality.

The male and female both assist in the construction of the nest, and show much affection for their charge. The young take to the water as soon as they are hatched.

DUSKY GREBE

SCLAVONIAN GREBE—HORNED GREBE—HORNED DABCHICK—BLACK AND WHITE DABCHICK.

PLATE CCII.—FIGURE II.

Podiceps cornutus, ...	MACGILLIVRAY.
Podiceps obscurus, ...	LATHAM.
Podiceps auritus, ...	DRESSER.
Colymbus obscurus, ...	GMELIN.

THE nest of this common winter visitant is large—a mass of reeds, sedges, and other water-plants, placed by the edge of the liquid element, or floated on the surface among the rushes or other such vegetation that there has its natural growth.

The eggs appear to be from two to four in number. They are of a white colour, with a faint tinge of blue when first laid, but they soon become stained.

DABCHICK.
DUSKY GREBE.
EARED GREBE.

EARED GREBE

BLACK-NECKED GREBE—EARED DABCHICK.

PLATE CCII.—FIGURE III.

Podiceps auritus, ...	LATHAM.
Colymbus auritus, ...	LINNÆUS.
Podiceps nigricollis, ...	BREHM.

THE Black-necked Grebe builds its nest among reeds and rushes by the edge of a pond or pool. Mr. Seebohm states that no instance has been recorded of its breeding in Great Britain, but there is strong presumptive evidence that it has done so in Norfolk, as Booth had "a full-plumaged adult and a couple of downy mites" brought to him by a marshman some years ago. And Mr. Saunders states that specimens in breeding plumage have been repeatedly obtained in both Norfolk and Suffolk.

The eggs are of a pure white colour, sometimes with and sometimes without a tinge of green; the surface is rough. They are of a regular oval shape, widest in the middle, and tapering towards each end. Their number is usually four, but five have been observed.

Both parents assist in incubation, which lasts three weeks.

DABCHICK

LITTLE GREBE—BLACK-CHIN GREBE—DIDAPPER—SMALL DOUCKER.

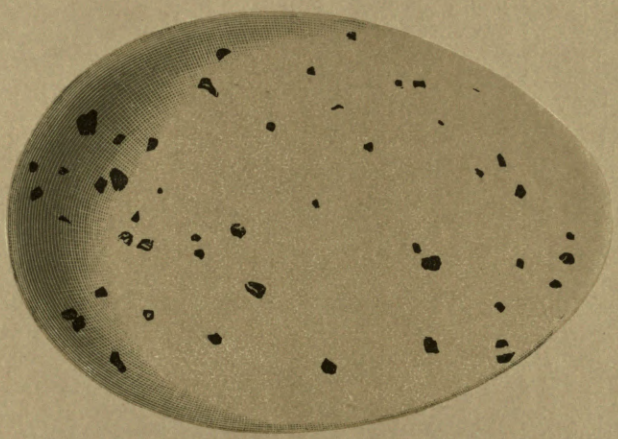
PLATE CCII.—FIGURE I.

Podiceps minor, ...	GOULD.
Colymbus minor, ...	NAUMANN.
Podiceps fluviatilis, ...	DRESSER.

THE nest of the Dabchick, which is placed at a little distance from the water, on or among any plants that grow near the sides of rivers, lakes, and ponds, is composed of short pieces of roots, reeds, rushes, and flags, and a considerable quantity of these is occasionally put together, sometimes to the height of a foot or more; when dry the whole naturally becomes very brittle.

The eggs are four, five, or six in number, oval in shape, tapering towards each end, and dull white in colour. The bird is in the habit of covering them over with weeds when leaving the nest for a time, at least, as soon as they are all laid, and it would further appear that the covering is not then removed, but that she sits on both it and the eggs; they become a good deal stained in consequence. The period of breeding is about the middle of May, but two broods are often reared in the season.

The young take to the water immediately on being hatched.



GREAT NORTHERN DIVER.

CCIII

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER

NORTHERN DIVER—GREATEST SPECKLED DIVER—LOON—
GREAT DOUCKER—IMBER DIVER—IMMER.

PLATE CCIII.

Colymbus glacialis, ... LINNÆUS.
Eudytes glacialis, ... NAUMANN.

THE nest of this fine bird, which is believed to breed on some of the Shetland Islands, is placed close to the water's edge, so as to admit of an immediate retreat, if necessary, to that element. It is composed of flattened herbage and moss.

The eggs are two, or sometimes, according to Audubon, three in number. Their colour is a dark olive greenish brown, with a few spots of a darker shade.

Both birds take their turns in sitting, and when the young are hatched, continue an equal and watchful care over them as long as it is required.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER

LESSER IMBER—NORTHERN DOUCKER—SPECKLED LOON.

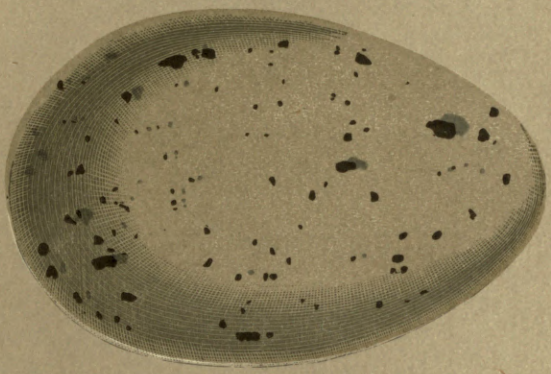
PLATE CCIV.—FIGURE I.

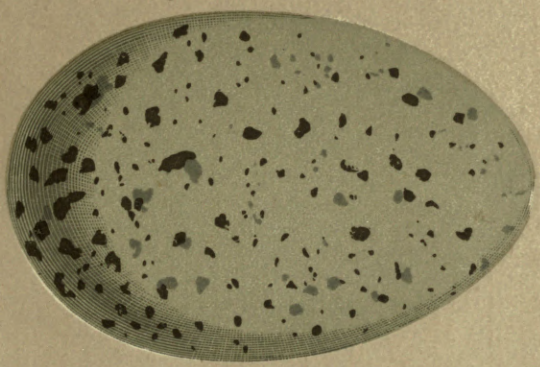
Colymbus arcticus, . . . LINNÆUS. GMELIN.
Eudytes arcticus, ... NAUMANN.

THIS Diver is found in Europe, in the Lapland and Norwegian seas, and inland waters, even those that exist at a considerable elevation. It breeds on many lochs in the north of Scotland.

The nest is placed close by the brink of the water, often on some small flat island in a lake. It is made of a few straws or stems of plants, placed in a hollow formed or excavated by the bird for the purpose.

The eggs of the Black-throated Diver, usually two in number, are often laid on the bare earth. They are of an olive-brown colour, with darker or blackish spots, and of a long and regular oval form.





BLACK-THROATED DIVER.
RED-THROATED DIVER.

CCIV

RED-THROATED DIVER

RAIN GOOSE—SPRAT LOON—SPECKLED DIVER—STRIPED DIVER.

PLATE CCIV.—FIGURE II.

Colymbus septentrionalis, . .	LINNÆUS. GMELIN.
Colymbus striatus, . . .	GMELIN.
Colymbus borealis,. . . .	LATHAM.

THIS Diver breeds in the north of Scotland. The situations chosen for laying are by small pools on low islands in the sea, the margins of inland lakes, and islets in them, and watery places on higher grounds.

The nest is nothing more than a few rushes or blades of grass and moss, mixed, Selby says, with the down of the bird. It is placed among the stones or gravel close to the water's edge, so that, if need be, the bird can slide at once into its natural and congenial element.

The eggs are two in number. They vary from olive to brown, rather thickly spotted with dark brown or umber.

GUILLEMOT

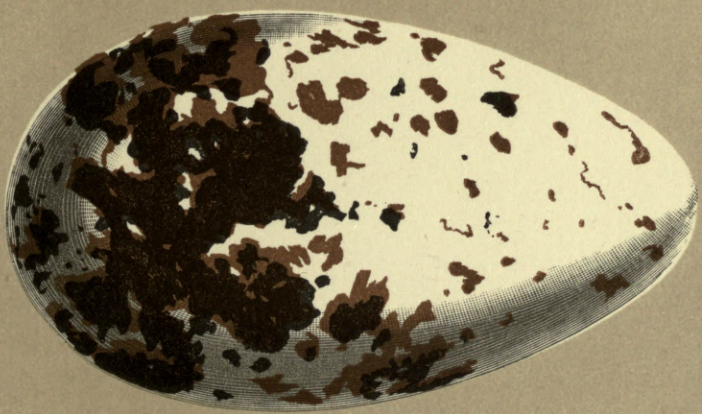
COMMON GUILLEMOT—FOOLISH GUILLEMOT—TARROCK—SCOUT—WILLOCK.

PLATES CCV. AND CCVI.

Uria troile, ...	LATHAM.	STEPHENS.
Lomvia troile, ...	COUES.	

THE Guillemot, which breeds in suitable places throughout the British Islands, makes no nest, but lays her single egg upon the bare rock. Countless numbers of these birds breed together on the rocks or cliffs that abut upon the ocean, thinking there to find security. Incubation continues for a month. The hen alone sits, and the male does not feed her, but if she be killed after the young one is hatched, he continues to feed it. The old bird is believed to convey her young down to the sea on her back.

The eggs are very large in proportion to the size of the bird, and more than ordinarily narrowed at one end and widened at the other. They vary in an extraordinary manner, and a description of the principal varieties only would be almost endless. Some are white, more or less spotted with brown, and others again bluish green, blotted and streaked with dark reddish brown or black. Some are entirely green or white, without any streaks or blotches. The shape of the egg, which is very tapering, prevents it



GUILLEMOT.

CCV

GUILLEMOT.

CCVI

from rolling off into the sea; for when moved by the wind, or other circumstances, it only rolls round in a circle, without changing its immediate situation. If the first egg be taken a second is laid, and if the second, a third. Each bird knows it own egg, and if it be moved she will put it back with her feet. She sits on the egg in an upright position.

BRUNNICH'S GUILLEMOT

THICK-BILLED GUILLEMOT.

PLATE CCVII.—FIGURE I.

Uria brunnichii, ... SABINE.

BRUNNICH'S Guillemot is a very rare straggler to the north of the British Islands during autumn and winter.

Its eggs are, like those of the Common Guillemot, most variable in colour. They are, Mr. Hewitson observes, less fantastically streaked and blotted than those of the other, but sometimes very regularly and beautifully marked all over with small spots.

In shape they are thicker and blunter than those of the Common Guillemot.

BRUNNICH'S GUILLEMOT.
RINGED GUILLEMOT.

CCVII

RINGED GUILLEMOT

BRIDLED GUILLEMOT.

PLATE CCVII.—FIGURE II.

Uria lachrymans, . . . GOULD. TEMMINCK.

THIS bird is now regarded as a variety of the Common Guillemot with an unusual amount of white round the eye.

Mr. Strickland stated that it bred regularly at Bridlington, whence he obtained the egg that is figured. The bird is in smaller numbers, and in places more difficult of access than the Common Guillemot. Mr. Strickland states that its eggs are invariably white.

BLACK GUILLEMOT

SPOTTED GUILLEMOT—COMMON SCRABER—GREENLAND DOVE.

PLATE CCVIII.

Uria grylle, ... PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Cephus grylle, ... NAUMANN.

THIS species, which breeds on the coasts of Scotland and Ireland, pairs about the middle of March, and the eggs are laid in the beginning or more usually by the middle of June. They are hatched in twenty-four days. The bird sits very close, so as to be easily taken on the eggs. Two or more couples have been known to lay under one piece of rock.

The bare earth, or rather the bare rock, or a crevice in it, is the only bed sought for by this species for the purpose of nidification. Mr. Hewitson writes as follows:—"On some of the islands which present a steep precipice to the sea, they make use of holes or crevices in the rocks, in which the eggs are laid at various distances from the mouth of the hole—from one or two feet, which is most usual, to three or four. On other islands less precipitous, it deposits them in cavities under or between fragments of rock and large stones, with which the beach is strewed. In one place several pairs rear their young ones in crannies between the stones which form the ruins of

BLACK GUILLEMOT.

CCVIII

an old wall, on the top of a single rock at sea, and at an elevation of fifty or sixty feet above its surface. The Black Guillemot resorts annually to the same holes."

The eggs are two in number, and of a white colour, with a tinge of green, spotted, blotted, and speckled more or less with grey, reddish brown, and very dark brown or blackish. Mr. Hewitson has known one of a pink colour.

Both parents attend to the young until able to fly and dive, when the latter forage for themselves.

ROTCHE

LITTLE AUK—COMMON ROTCHE.

PLATE CCIX.—FIGURE I.

Mergulus alle, ...	DRESSER.
Alca alle, ...	PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Mergulus melanoleucos, . .	YARRELL.

THIS irregular winter visitor to the British Islands breeds only in the Arctic Circle. The shelter of a chance stone on the earth or rock in some precipitous spot, from whence it can readily drop into the water, or take flight, is all that the Little Auk thinks it necessary to seek or provide in the shape of a nest, unless some cavernous hollow present itself, and this, if suitable, will be taken advantage of by several individuals.

The egg of this small sea-bird is of a uniform pale bluish green; some specimens are spotted with rust-colour, or yellowish brown.

Several of these birds build in company, from fifty to a hundred or so.

Both parents take their share of the incubation; while one of them sits on the eggs, the other may be seen close by, perched on a rock or stone. The young do not leave the nest before they are fully fledged.

LITTLE AUK.
PUFFIN.

CCIX

PUFFIN

SEA-PARROT—COULTER-NEB—COMMON COULTER-NEB.

PLATE CCIX.—FIGURE II.

Mormon fratercula, ... MACGILLIVRAY.
Fratercula arctica, ... YARRELL.

THE Puffin breeds in precipitous places on the coast and its adjacent islands, seeming to give a preference to such as are covered with a formation of mould. The nest is made both on cliffs and high rocks, and on the short verdure which obtains on any level places on their sides or summits, or among stones and boulders. At first indeed, strictly speaking, there is little or no nest, but as incubation advances, a few grasses may be seen commingled with some feathers of the owners. These birds occasionally take possession of a rabbit-burrow, or dig a hole themselves, as a receptacle for their eggs, frequently to the depth of three feet, and often in a curving direction, and with two entrances. The egg is laid at the farther end. Several will sometimes occupy one hole. A natural cranny or fissure in the rock will equally serve the purpose, or a time-worn hole or hollow in an old wall or ruin. They often build in company with the Razor-Bill, Herring Gull, Kittiwake, and Guillemot, but in separate ranks. Mr. Selby

adds that when engaged in digging, which operation is generally performed by the males, they are sometimes so intent upon their work as to allow themselves to be taken by the hand; and the same may also be done when the bird is sitting on its egg. The young are hatched after a month's incubation. In about a like period of time they come to their full feathers, and are able to quit their native burrows, and take to the ocean. Meyer says that where both birds have been killed, others have been known to take charge of the egg or young.

Only one egg is laid, and its colour is white, sometimes spotted with pale grey, or freckled with pale brown or lilac.

RAZOR-BILL.

CCX

RAZOR-BILL

PLATE CCX.

Alca torda, ... LINNÆUS.

ANY slight hollow or cranny in a rock of the cliff overhanging the sea, or even the bare unsheltered surface of the rock itself, a preference being given to the most precipitous places, is chosen by the Razor-Bill as a deposit for its single egg. This is laid in the month of April. It is exposed to accidents of different kinds, and is not unfrequently thrown down by a high wind, or by some other bird, great numbers frequenting the same breeding-places; or is broken by a chance stone or mass of earth dislodged from above. The young are borne down to the sea on the back of one or other of the parents. Razor-Bills often build in company with Kittiwakes, Puffins, Herring Gulls, and Guillemots, each kind keeping to itself.

The old ones show much attachment to their young. The latter are able in July to provide for themselves, but the descent to the sea is not always accomplished with safety. It sometimes happens that in throwing themselves down from the edge of the cliff, to which they are led by their parents, they fail in clearing the obstacles below, and the force of the fall in such case is fatal. They are also at

times preyed upon by Falcons. They lay towards the end of May or the beginning of June.

The egg is subject to almost endless variety. Its prevailing colour is white, or pale chocolate brown blotted and spotted with blackish brown and reddish brown.

GREAT AUK.

CCXI

GREAT AUK

GAIRFOWL.

PLATE CCXI.

Alca impennis, ... LINNÆUS.

THIS extinct bird formerly hatched on the bare ground close to the coast, or in the cleft of a rock.

The egg resembled that of the Razor-Bill in general coloration, the ground colour being creamy white, streaked and spotted, principally about the larger end, with black or dark brown.

About seventy eggs are now preserved in museums and other collections. They have become extremely valuable of late years. In the early part of this century they realised but a few pounds. They have now risen to an extreme price, a single specimen having been sold by public auction for even more than three hundred pounds.

CORMORANT

COMMON CORMORANT—CORVORANT.

PLATE CCXII.—FIGURE II.

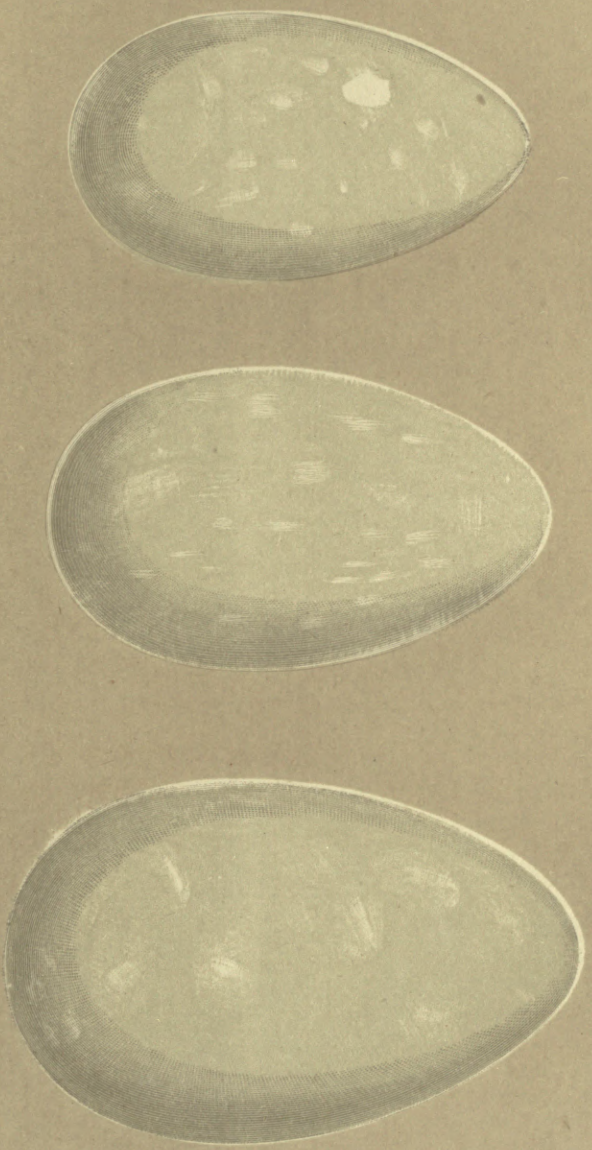
Phalacrocorax carbo, ...	MACGILLIVRAY.
Carbo cormoranus, ...	TEMMINCK.
Halicus cormoranus, ...	NAUMANN.

THE Cormorant naturally prefers an elevated situation for its nest; the tops of lofty cliffs are built on, or high trees. Failing these, a bed of rushes is made to serve the purpose on the mainland; or the top of a low island rock is resorted to. Many couples often breed together.

The nest, which is large, is composed of sticks or sea-weed, heaped up to the height of a couple of feet. The finer portions or grass line the interior.

The eggs, small in proportion to the size of the bird, are of pale bluish or greenish colour, encrusted with chalky white; they are without polish, and of an oblong shape. Three is the usual number, but sometimes six are laid, in the latter half of April or in May: they are hatched in four weeks.

As soon as the young are able to fend and forage for themselves, they are conducted to the sea by their parents, and then left to their own resources.



GREEN CORMORANT.
CORMORANT.
GANNET.

CCXII

GREEN CORMORANT

SHAG—SCARF—SCART—CRESTED CORMORANT.

PLATE CCXII.—FIGURE I.

Pelecanus cristatus, . . .	PENNANT.
Pelecanus graculus, . . .	MONTAGU. BEWICK.
Phalacrocorax cristatus, . .	SELBY. JENYNS. GOULD.

THE Green Cormorants make their nests on the ledges and shelves of cliffs or caves over the sea, lower down than the other species. Many pairs, a score or more, frequent the same place. They return to it annually for the breeding-season. Montagu mentions his having counted thirty together on a small rock. The bird sits upright on the eggs.

The nest is a mass of sea-weed, softened off internally with the finer sorts of grass; the materials of which it is composed are matted and plastered together.

The eggs are three, four, or five in number, and their original colour is white. They are like those of the cormorant in colour and surface, but less in size. During incubation they soon become stained and discoloured.

GANNET

COMMON GANNET—SOLAN GANNET—SOLAND GOOSE—SOLAN GOOSE.

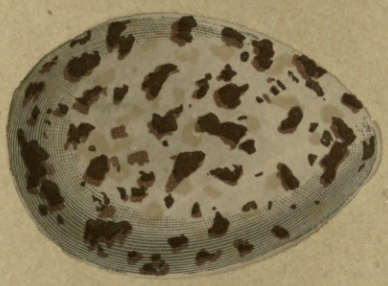
PLATE CCXII.—FIGURE III.

Pelecanus bassanus, . . .	PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Sula alba, ...	YARRELL.
Sula bassana, ...	BRISSON. SELBY.

GREAT numbers of these birds build together in the same situations, on the side of precipitous cliffs and rocks, the nests, made of sea-weed and grass, being almost close to each other.

The egg, for there is only one, is at first a very pale blue, overlaid with chalky white, but it is rapidly discoloured during incubation.

Both birds sit; the period of incubation being about six weeks



CASPIAN TERN.
SANDWICH TERN.

CCXIII

CASPIAN TERN

PLATE CCXIII.—FIGURE II.

Sterna caspia, ... PALLAS.

THE nest of this rare summer visitor is a mere hollow scratched in the sand, which is occasionally lined with pieces of shell or a few bents.

The eggs are two or three in number, of a yellowish stone or pale olive-green colour, spotted with grey and reddish brown or blackish brown. They are hatched in about twenty days. Although the birds use great exertions to prevent an intruder from approaching the nest and eggs, by flying over his head, and making a considerable noise, yet it has been remarked that when they are once disturbed, they do not easily return to their nest, and are said even not to revisit the same spot the following year if they are fired at. Several hundreds of pairs build together.

SANDWICH TERN

PLATE CCXIII.—FIGURE I.

Sterna cantiaca, ... GMELIN.
Sterna boysii, ... FLEMING. SELBY.

THESE birds live together in large colonies, hundreds, and even thousands of pairs crowding together in the same places, the eggs in consequence being so close together that it is difficult to avoid treading on them. The situation chosen is a sandy place, covered at the most with short and bare vegetation. If the nesting-place is approached, the birds fly about in a cloud. They are late in breeding, seldom commencing till the month of June; the nests are frequently mere holes in the sand.

The eggs are usually two, rarely three in number. Meyer says: "The bird sits on them during the whole night, but only occasionally during the day, and, as in the preceding species, some few birds remain about the breeding-places, to keep watch during the absence of the rest. It has been asserted that these birds, although laying two or three eggs only for a brood, will, when the eggs are taken out of the nest daily, continue laying for a fortnight." The eggs vary exceedingly, and are extremely beautiful. They are

of a pale yellowish stone-colour, thickly spotted and marked with deep reddish brown, orange brown, blackish brown, and grey. Some are of a whitish, and others cream colour. The rarest are white with a slight tinge of olive, with spots of a darker shade.

ROSEATE TERN

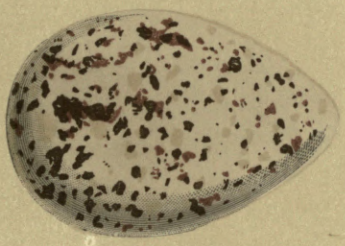
PLATE CCXIV.

Sterna dougallii, . MONTAGU. BEWICK. FLEMING.

THIS summer visitant is said to be rapidly disappearing. It used to breed in certain localities on the Scotch and Irish coasts; these stations are now deserted, but the bird itself has been found on the Norfolk coast as recently as 1880.

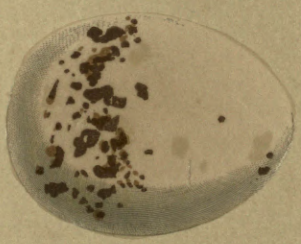
This species makes no nest, but lays its eggs on banks of sand on the bare ground itself.

The eggs are two or three in number; the ground colour yellowish cream-white, pale brown, or yellowish olive-green, spotted and speckled with grey and brown.



ROSEATE TERN.

CCXIV



COMMON TERN.

CCXV

COMMON TERN

PLATE CCXV.

Sterna fluviatilis, ... NAUMANN.
Sterna hirundo, ... LINNÆUS.

THE Common Tern lays its eggs on sand or shingle, making little or no nest beyond scooping out a slight hollow, either by the sea-side or in marshes, on islands, or by the sides of lakes and rivers.

The eggs vary in colour from dull grey to stone buff or light dull yellowish stone-colour; they are blotched and spotted with dark reddish brown and blackish brown, and are three in number. They are laid from the latter end of May to the beginning of July.

The male bird assists the female in the task of sitting during the day, she taking charge of the clutch at night; in fine weather, however, the heat of the sun seems to be thought sufficient, and the birds leave them exposed to its rays. Ten or twelve pairs of these birds breed together. The young come forth in fifteen or sixteen days, and are, able to fly when about three weeks old. The old ones display much anxiety for their safety, and are very clamorous when any one approaches their station, flying round and frequently even striking against the intruder.

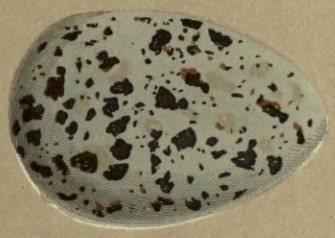
ARCTIC TERN

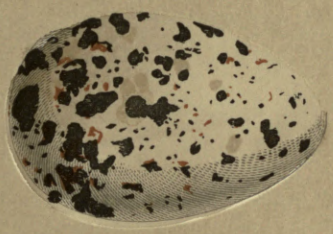
PLATE CCXVI.—FIGURES I. AND II.

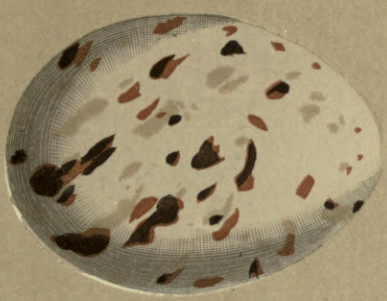
Sterna arctica, . . . FLEMING. SELBY. JENYNS.
Sterna macrura, . . NAUMANN.

THIS regular summer visitant breeds north of the Humber. It contents itself with a slight hollow in the bare sand by the sea-shore, the borders of islets, or the mouths of rivers. Great numbers build together, and the nests are so closely contiguous that it is hardly possible to avoid walking upon them.

The eggs are usually three in number, sometimes only two, but never four; they are subject to almost endless variety, the ground colour being often tinged with olive and frequently buffish brown; a pale bluish green is not unfrequent, and sometimes they are rich ochre red. They are spotted dull green and brown, with grey and dark reddish-brown. They are usually laid in the beginning of June. The period of incubation is about fifteen or sixteen days.







ARCTIC TERN.
SOOTY TERN.

CCXVI

SOOTY TERN

PLATE CCXVI.—FIGURE III.

Sterna fuliginosa, ... GMELIN.

THIS rare visitor has only occurred in England on two or three occasions, being an intertropical bird.

No nest is formed, but the eggs are laid in the sand near the sea-shore, the birds scratching a slight hollow for the purpose.

The eggs are smooth, and of a pale cream-colour, slightly marked with different shades of pale brown and lighter tints of purple. The female, while sitting, is fed by the male.

WHISKERED TERN

MOUSTACHE TERN.

PLATE CCXVII.—FIGURE I.

Sterna hybrida, ... PALLAS.
Hydrochelidon hybrida, ... DRESSER.

A VERY rare straggler from the Oriental and Ethiopian regions. It breeds in colonies in the marshes and lakes. Its nest is a floating mass of tangled aquatic weeds.

The eggs are three in number; they vary from pale buff to very pale green, spotted with light or dark brown.

WHISKERED TERN.
GULL-BILLED TERN.

CCXVII

GULL-BILLED TERN

PLATE CCXVII.—FIGURE II.

Sterna anglica, ... MONTAGU.
Geochelidon anglica, ... MACGILIVRAY.

THE nesting-places of this irregular visitant, which breeds in the warmer regions, are marshy grounds not far from the sea-beach. A small hollow is scratched in the sand, and in this a few stems of grass and small roots are placed.

The eggs are two or three in number, of a pale buff, as also of a very fugitive dull greenish or yellowish olive-colour, marked and spotted with reddish brown of several shades, and grey.

The misleading name *Anglica* was given it by Montagu, because it was first described from a specimen shot in Kent.

LESSER TERN

LITTLE TERN.

PLATE CCXVIII.—FIGURE I.

Sterna minuta, . . PENNANT. MONTAGU. BEWICK.
Sternula minuta, . GOULD.

THIS bird, a regular summer visitant, breeds in many parts of Great Britain, laying in the sand or gravel along the sea-shore, or by the borders of rivers: several pairs breed close together.

The eggs, generally two, or sometimes three in number, are stone colour, spotted and speckled with grey and dark chestnut brown. They are laid by the first week in June.

The young are hatched in a fortnight: they are able to fly by about the second week in July.

LESSER TERN.
BLACK TERN.

BLACK TERN

PLATE CCXVIII.—FIGURE II.

Sterna nigra, ... NAUMANN.
Sterna fissipes, ... YARRELL. HARTING.
Hydrochelidon nigra, ... MACGILLIVRAY.

THESE birds, which were formerly abundant in the breeding-season, especially in the eastern counties of England, from which they are now banished by drainage and persecution, build together in great numbers; they choose for the purpose swampy places among moors or fens. Their nests are either placed in some slight mound of earth, or tuft of grass or rushes, close to or floated on the water, among the kindred stems and stalks of flags and reeds, and with grass for the inner portion.

The eggs are three in number, of a rather dark ochreous clay, olive-green, or olive-brown colour, blotted and spotted with deep brown or black, principally at the larger end.

The young are produced in fifteen or sixteen days.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN

SILVER-WINGED BLACK TERN.

PLATE CCXIX.

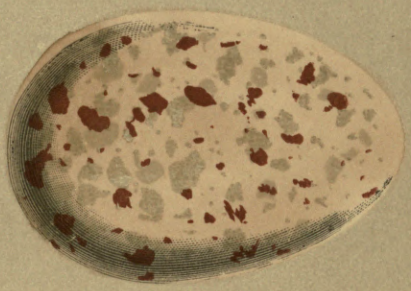
Sterna leucoptera, ... MEYER.
Hydrochelidon leucoptera, . . . MACGILLIVRAY.

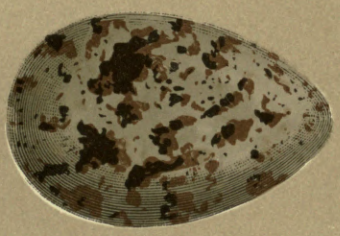
THE eggs of this rare straggler, which is not now known to breed in Great Britain, are three, or occasionally four in number, the ground colour being dull yellowish-olive or buff, with many greyish spots, and some larger blackish-red ones.

The male and female birds sit on the eggs in turn, and show much anxiety for their safety, flying at and about all intruders.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN.

CCXIX





NODDY.
SABINE'S GULL.

CCXX

NODDY

BLACK NODDY—NODDY TERN.

PLATE CCXX.—FIGURE I.

Sterna stolida, . . .	JENYNS. GOULD. LINNÆUS.
Anous stolidus, . . .	EYTON.
Megalopterus stolidus, . .	MACGILLIVRAY.

THE nesting-places of this bird are banks and rocks. According to Audubon they form regular nests of twigs and dry grass. These are placed in low trees or bushes; that of the former year is often repaired, being thus raised to the height of nearly a couple of feet. Thousands of birds build together. In their nesting-places the bird can even be caught by the hand.

The eggs, three in number, are of a reddish yellow colour, spotted with dull red and purple.

Two or three specimens of this tropical species are recorded as having occurred in Ireland.

SABINE'S GULL

PLATE CCXX.—FIGURE II.

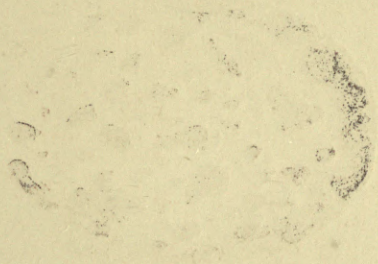
Larus sabinii, ... JENYNS.
Xema sabinii, ... EYTON. GOULD.

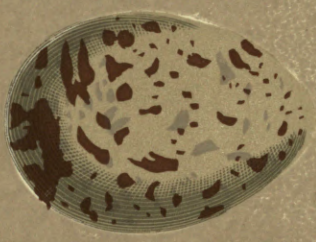
THIS scarce autumnal straggler to England lays its eggs on the bare earth, or in a depression in the moss, near the coasts of the Arctic seas.

The eggs are two in number, olive brown in their ground colour, numerously spotted with darker brown.

The parent birds, when engaged in feeding their young, exhibit much anxiety for them, and dash about intruders in a perturbed manner.

The young are hatched in the latter end of July.





LITTLE GULL.
BUONAPARTE'S GULL.

CCXXI

LITTLE GULL

PLATE CCXXI.—FIGURE I.

Larus minutus, ...	PALLAS.
Xema minutus, ...	GOULD.
Gavia minuta, ...	MACGILLIVRAY.

THIS irregular visitant to our shores during winter breeds in Siberia.

The eggs are three or four in number, having a ground colour of a greenish ochre, spotted with grey and reddish brown.

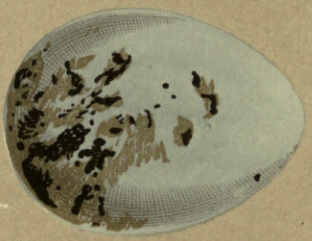
BUONAPARTE'S GULL

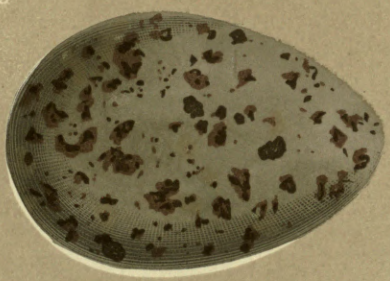
PLATE CCXXI.—FIGURE II.

Larus buonapartii, . . . THOMPSON. AUDUBON.
Larus philadelphia, . . . GRAY.

AN American species which is said to have occurred in Ireland.

The eggs are of a light brown colour, spotted with grey and two shades of brown.





MASKED GULL.
BLACK-HEADED GULL.

MASKED GULL

BROWN-HEADED GULL.

PLATE CCXXII.—FIGURES I. AND II.

Larus capistratus, ... TEMMINCK.
Chroicocephalus capistratus, ... EYTON.

THIS bird, which was described by Temminck as a distinct species, is now regarded as a small variety of the Black-headed Gull described in the following article. The eggs figured are of doubtful authenticity.

BLACK-HEADED GULL

PEEWIT GULL—RED-LEGGED GULL.

PLATE CCXXII.—FIGURE III.

Larus ridibundus, . . . LINNÆUS. LATHAM.

THIS abundant and regular visitant breeds in many parts of the United Kingdom, resorting to fenny places and the sides of pools and inland waters and their islands to breed, and vast multitudes congregate together for the purpose, near the sea and on the adjoining lands, if low and marshy.

The nest is flat, and a composition of grass or the tops of reeds and sedge, placed, perhaps, on a tuft of rushes or other such herbage.

If the first set of eggs be taken a second is laid, and a third if the second, but in such cases they are less each time in size. They are valued as food, and in some places are farmed for the purpose.

The eggs, three or rarely four in number, are laid in the middle or end of April, or beginning of May, and are hatched the end of May or early in June. They vary exceedingly in colour and markings; some are olive brown, others yellow, and others green, red, or salmon colour. Some have scarcely any spots, and others are thickly covered with spots of different shades of brown and reddish

brown. One beautiful variety has been described, the ground colour a very light greenish white, blotted with two shades of rich brown.

The young birds soon leave the nest and betake themselves to the water.

Sir William Jardine writes: "They are particular in the choice of a breeding-place, at least some which we would think suited for them are passed or deserted, and others more unlikely are selected. We possess a reedy loch which was for many years a haunt of these birds, but the edges were planted and they left it; ten years afterwards, and when the plantation had grown up, a few pairs returned, and in time increased to a large colony, when an artificial piece of water had been made by damming up a narrow pass in an extensive muir, nearly two miles distant; thither the Gulls resorted the following spring, leaving their ancient ground; and they have been increasing in numbers for some years past."

Both parents sit on the eggs, and one brood only is reared during the season.

MEDITERRANEAN BLACK-HEADED GULL

ADRIATIC BLACK-HEADED GULL.

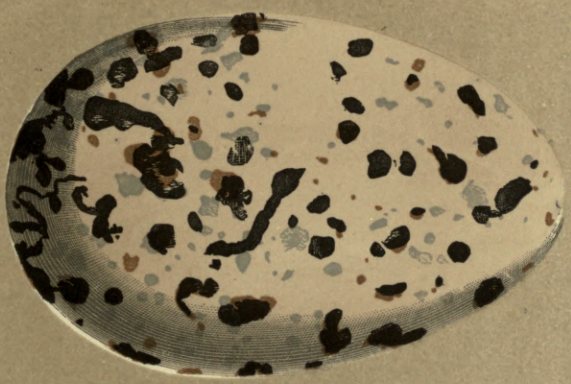
PLATE CCXXII.*—FIGURE I.

Larus melanocephalus, ... NATTERER.

A SINGLE specimen of this species is said to have been obtained in England.

The nest is described by Dresser as made of small twigs.

The eggs, from two to three in number, are of a paler stone colour than those of the ordinary Black-headed Gull.



MEDITERRANEAN BLACK-HEADED GULL.
GREAT BLACK-HEADED GULL.

GREAT BLACK-HEADED GULL

PLATE CCXXII.*—FIGURE II.

Larus icthyaëtus, ... PALLAS.

ONE example of this bird, which inhabits the Red Sea and India, was shot at the mouth of the Exe in June 1859. Of its breeding habits but little is known. Its eggs are laid on the sand; they are three in number, and are of a dull yellowish stone colour, streaked and blotted with black and brown.

LAUGHING GULL

PLATE CCXXIII.—FIGURE I.

Larus atricilla, ... MONTAGU. FLEMING.

THE Laughing Gull, says Saunders, was added to the British list by Montagu in error, as indicated by his description of the bird obtained at Winchelsea. It is an American species which builds in marshy places near the sea-shore. Meyer asserts that during fine weather this bird sits on the eggs only at night, leaving the breeding-place early in the morning for the purpose of feeding; but that, when the weather is wet or cold, she remains on the eggs, and takes care of them also during the day.

The nest is made of dry grass and sea-weeds, arranged to a height of two or three inches, the interior being from four and a half to five inches wide, and one and a half deep.

Audubon mentions a curious instance of two nests being built as it were into one; each pair of birds, both male and female, living in the closest companionship, in both senses of the word. In some instances the sand alone is hollowed into a nest.

The eggs are three in number at the most; their usual colour is brownish olive, spotted and blotted with dull reddish brown, the said markings being most numerous about the larger end. They are considered very good to eat.

LAUGHING GULL.
KITTIWAKE.

CCXXIII

KITTIWAKE

TARROCK (YOUNG).

PLATE CCXXIII.—FIGURES II. AND III.

Larus tridactylus, ... LATHAM.
Larus rissa, ... LINNÆUS.

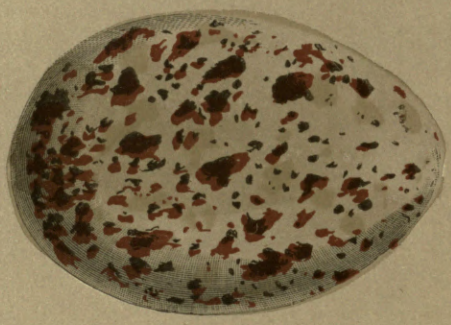
ONE of the most abundant of the British Gulls, the Kittiwake lays its eggs high up on any small ledge or cleft at the side of a steep and rocky cliff by the sea. These are often so narrow and apparently insecure, that Selby says the young seem instinctively aware of their perilous situation, whence sometimes the least movement would precipitate them into the waves beneath, and are observed seldom to change their attitude in the nest till sufficiently fledged to be able to provide for their own safety. Immense numbers of these birds build together, so much so as completely to whiten the places where they assemble for the purpose, and to give them the appearance of being covered with snow. They often are found in company with Razor-Bills, Guillemots, and Puffins.

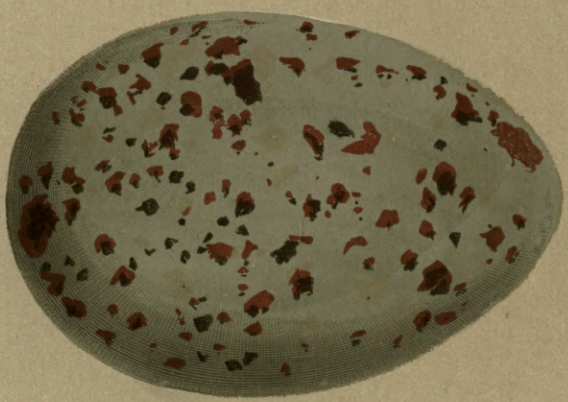
The nest is a mixture of grass and other dry herbage with sea-weed.

The time for laying is the latter end of May or the beginning of June.

The eggs are usually two, but occasionally, though very

rarely, three in number. They differ much in their colouring and markings; the prevailing tint is stone-colour with a tinge of olive, much spotted with grey and brown of two shades; or greyish-white faintly tinged with brown, and blotted with dark brown and purple grey.





IVORY GULL.
ICELAND GULL.

CCXXIV

IVORY GULL

PLATE CCXXIV.—FIGURE I.

Larus candidus, ... FLEMING.
Larus eburneus, ... GMELIN. LATHAM.
Pagophila eburnea, ... PHIPPS.

THIS polar species is only an occasional straggler to Britain. It breeds in colonies, on cliffs and rocky shores in the extreme north; and the nest is composed of sea-weed, moss, and drift.

The eggs, which never exceed two in number, are of a buffish olive colour, spotted with grey, reddish brown, and brownish black.

ICELAND GULL

LESSER WHITE-WINGED GULL—WHITE-WINGED SILVERY GULL.

PLATE CCXXIV.—FIGURE II.

Larus icelandicus, . . .	YARRELL.
Larus argentatus, . . .	SABINE. TEMMINCK.
Larus leucopterus, . . .	FABER. MACGILLIVRAY.
Larus glaucoides, . . .	TEMMINCK.

THE Iceland Gull, an irregular winter visitant, builds on precipices or cliffs.

The eggs, two to three, are of an olive-green colour, spotted with two shades of brown.

COMMON GULL.

CCXXV

COMMON GULL

SEA MEW—WINTER MEW.

PLATE CCXXV.

Larus canus, ...	LINNÆUS.
Larus hybernus, ...	GMELIN.
Larus fuscus, ...	RAY.

THE nest of this Gull, which breeds in various parts of Scotland and Ireland, being only a winter visitant to England, is rather large, and is made of grass, sea-weed, and heather; precipitous places, as well as the lower ground, are used for its location; in one instance Sir William Jardine mentions his having known several nests placed on the wall of an old ruin. Both the sea-coasts and the shores of inland lakes and marshy islands are resorted to.

These birds appear to keep aloof in their building as much as may be from their congeners. In some instances large numbers breed together, and in others a few pairs, or even a single pair by themselves.

The eggs, normally three in number, are of various shades of colour, but generally olive brown, spotted or streaked and blotted irregularly with deeper brown, grey, and black. Pale blue, straw coloured, and light green varieties are not uncommon.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL.

PLATE CCXXVI.—FIGURE I.

Larus fuscus, ... LINNÆUS. GMELIN.

THE present species builds in suitable places in the British Islands, on bare and barren islands, parts of the sea-coast and those of inland lakes. Steep and precipitous cliffs are used, as well as low marshy moors and sandy places a little way inland.

The nest is a tolerable quantity of grass, with occasionally, though rarely, some sea-weed, placed loosely together in any slight hollow in the rock or the adjacent herbage, the latter least frequently.

The eggs, generally laid at the end of May, are usually three in number. They are of very great variety of shade, from pale bluish green, brown, olive green, olive brown, and stone colour, to almost white, thickly spotted with grey, brown of two shades, and brownish black.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL.
HERRING GULL.

CCXXVI

HERRING GULL

SILVERY GULL.

PLATE CCXXVI.—FIGURE II.

Larus argentatus, ...	GMELIN.
Larus glaucus, ...	TEMMINCK.
Larus marinus, ...	LATHAM.

THE Herring Gull is a resident, being very generally distributed.

It makes a nest of dry grass, plants, and sea-weed, on the ledges and small grassy or stony places that occur along the side of a cliff, and towards the top. It is of a considerable size outside, the margin being flat, and the inner part small and round.

Great numbers of these birds breed together, and in close neighbourhood also with other species,—the Kittiwake, Razor-Bill, Puffin, and Guillemot; but the nests are kept distinct.

The eggs are usually three in number, sometimes only two. They are of a light olive brown colour, spotted over with darker umber brown of two shades; some are deep olive green, blotted over with blackish brown. They are laid early in May, and the young take wing about the 20th of July.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

GREATER BLACK-BACKED GULL—GREAT BLACK AND WHITE GULL.

PLATE CCXXVII.—FIGURE I.

Larus marinus, . .	LINNÆUS. GMELIN. BRUNNICH.
Larus niger, . .	BRISSON.
Larus nævius, . .	GMELIN.

THE Great Black-backed Gull is a resident or partial migrant.

It builds chiefly in marshes and low undrained moors, as also in and on the cliffs and rocky islets of the sea-coast and of inland lakes, making its nursery of dry-grass, sea-weeds, and sticks. Many resort to the same place. The nest is of large size. Both male and female assist in its construction.

The eggs are usually three in number, sometimes two. They are considered good to eat, and great numbers are taken for the purpose, the first and second clutch being removed, and the bird then laying a third time. Their colour is yellowish brown, boldly blotched with dark grey and umber.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL.
GLAUCOUS GULL.

CCXXVII

GLAUCOUS GULL

BURGOMASTER.

PLATE CCXXVII.—FIGURE II.

Larus glaucus, ... FABRICIUS.

THIS irregular winter visitor breeds in the Arctic Circle, on the sea-beach, as well as on the ledges of steep cliffs, and island rocks in the sea.

The nests, according to Seebohm, who described the breeding-station at Vardö, in the north-east of Norway, are mere heaps of sand lined with tufts of grass and sea-weed, and at other breeding-places it nests like a tern.

The, eggs three in number, are stated to be of a pale stone colour, with scattered spots of ash grey and brown.

SKUA

COMMON SKUA—SKUA GULL—BONXIE.

PLATE CCXXVIII.—FIGURE II.

Stercorarius cataractes, ...	DRESSER.
Cataractes vulgaris, ...	FLEMING.
Catharacta skua, ...	BRUNNICH.
Larus cataractes, ...	LINNÆUS.

THE nest of the Skua is of large size, as well as somewhat carefully constructed; the materials used being grass, lichens, moss, and heath. The bird places it on the tops of the mountains or cliffs in the neighbourhood of the sea, but not on the rocks themselves. They build separately in pairs.

The eggs are only two in number. They are olive brown, with darker markings. They are laid towards the end of June.

The only breeding-places of the Skua remaining in Great Britain are in the Shetland Islands.

There are two small colonies on Unst and Foula, where the most praiseworthy efforts have been made by the proprietors to protect them; but to quote the words of Mr. Hudson in his "British Birds," 1895: "It is scarcely to be hoped that this insignificant remnant will continue to exist

POMERINE SKUA.

SKUA.

many years, when we consider that the childish and contemptible craze of egg-shell collecting is very common, and that many collectors do not hesitate to steal, or to bribe others to steal for them, the eggs they desire to have in their cabinets."

POMERINE SKUA

POMERINE JAGER.

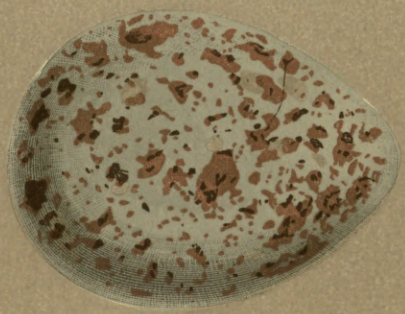
PLATE CCXXVIII.—FIGURE I.

Stercorarius pomatorhinus, ... DRESSER.
Lestris pomarinus, ... TEMMINCK.

THIS Skua Gull builds in the Arctic regions of both continents, usually in marshy places or tundras.

The nest is little more than a mere depression in the moss.

The eggs are two in number, and of an olive-brown colour, spotted with darker blotches.



BUFFON'S SKUA.
RICHARDSON'S SKUA.

CCXXIX

RICHARDSON'S SKUA

PLATE CCXXIX.—FIGURE II.

Stercorarius crepidatus, ...	GMELIN.
Lestris richardsonii, ...	YARRELL.
Lestris parasitica, ...	NAUMANN.

THESE birds, which breed in the Orkneys, Shetland, and Hebrides, as well as a few places on the mainland of Scotland, build both separately and in companies—twenty or thirty pairs together. They make their nests on some raised part of a marshy place, or the top of a moor waste; the heath, moss, or grass being depressed into a nest.

The eggs are two in number. They are laid early in June. They are of an olive-brown colour, spotted with dark brown.

LONG-TAILED SKUA

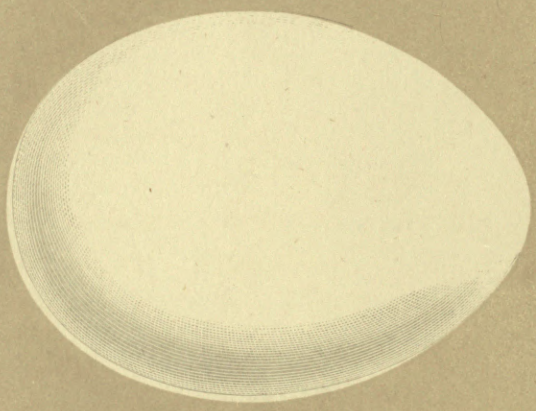
BUFFON'S SKUA—ARCTIC SKUA—TEAZER—ARCTIC GULL—ARCTIC JAGER—BLACK-TOED GULL.

PLATE CCXXIX.—FIGURE I.

Stercorarius parasiticus, .	LINNÆUS.
Lestris parasiticus, . .	JENYNS. EYTON. GOULD.
Stercorarius buffoni, . .	SEEBOHM.
Stercorarius longicaudus, .	BRISSON.
Larus parasiticus, . .	LINNÆUS.
Lestris crepidatus, . .	NAUMANN.

THIS Skua is a rare visitor on migration, breeding only in the circumpolar district on the shores of the sea and those of the larger rivers, as also on barren heaths at some distance inland: many birds build together. The nest is a slight hollow in the ground lined sparingly with a little dry grass. The old birds are very daring in defence of their young.

The eggs are two in number, of a pale olive-green colour, with irregular blots of reddish brown.



FULMAR.

FULMAR

FULMAR PETREL—NORTHERN FULMAR—PETREL FULMAR.

PLATE CCXXX.

Fulmarus glacialis, . LINNÆUS.
Procellaria glacialis, . PENNANT. MONTAGU. BEWICK.

THE Fulmar builds on St. Kilda, a group of rocky islands about forty miles west of the Hebrides.

The single egg is laid on one of the small grassy shelves that occur on the front of high and inaccessible precipices. Numberless pairs of these birds build close together.

The egg is of very large size, white, and of a brittle texture.

The young are hatched about the middle of June, the eggs having been laid in the beginning of that month.

MANX SHEARWATER

SHEARWATER PETREL—MANX PUFFIN—MANKS PETREL.

PLATE CCXXXI.—FIGURE II.

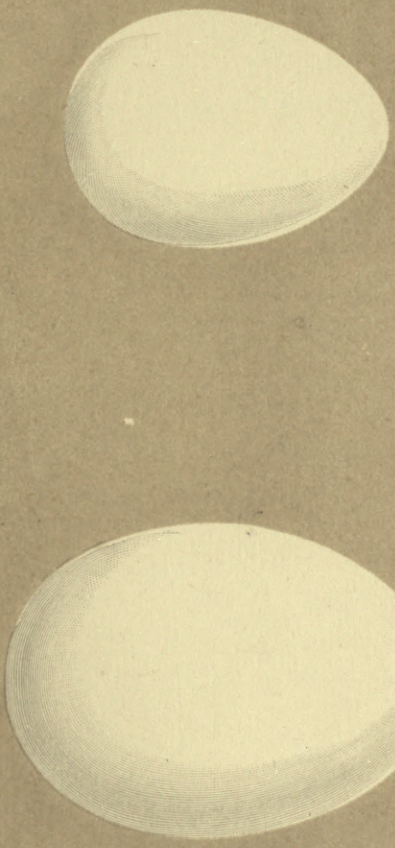
Procellaria anglorum, ... TEMMINCK.
Puffinus anglorum, ... NAUMANN.

THE Manx Shearwater breeds usually in burrows, going in to a depth of about two feet. The excavating of these appears to occupy a considerable time. Captain Beecher found a small colony breeding at the base of a cliff, amidst a pile of blocks of stone. Both birds sit, and that so closely as to allow themselves to be taken in the hand.

They appear to be very variable in the time of laying, from the end of May to the end of June.

The nest is at best but a very slight collection of fern leaves and withered stems of other plants; frequently none is formed, but the sand alone suffices the bird.

Only one egg is produced; it is large in size in proportion to the bulk of the bird, perfectly white and of an oval form, but both ends obtuse.



BULWER'S PETREL.
MANX SHEARWATER.

BULWER'S PETREL

PLATE CCXXXI.—FIGURE I.

Bulweria columbina, . . . MOQUIN-TANDON.
Procellaria bulwerii, . . . JARDINE. SELBY.
Thalassidroma bulwerii, . . . MACGILLIVRAY.

TWO stragglers of this Atlantic species have been secured in England. It breeds on the Canaries and Madeira, building no nest, but laying its single white egg on the bare rock.

WILSON'S PETREL

PLATE CCXXXII.—FIGURE II.

Oceanites oceanicus, ...	KUHL.
Procellaria wilsoni, ...	HARTING.
Thalassidroma wilsoni, ...	YARRELL.

THIS rare visitor to Britain builds in numbers south of the Equator. The Rev. A. Eaton found the eggs at Kerguelen Island. They are of a dull white colour, with minute spots at the broader end. They are laid in January and February, in holes amongst shattered rocks and large boulders. One is deposited by each bird.

STORM PETREL.
WILSON'S PETREL.
FORK-TAILED PETREL.

CCXXXII

FORK-TAILED PETREL

LEACH'S PETREL—FORK-TAILED STORM PETREL.

PLATE CCXXXII.—FIGURE III.

Procellaria leachii, ...	Bewick. Jenyns.
Procellaria leucorrhoa, . . .	Vieillot.
Thalassidroma bullockii, . . .	Eyton.
Thalassidroma leachii, . . .	Gould. Temminck.

THIS North Atlantic Petrel breeds at St. Kilda, in burrows in the sand, among stones, or adopts a hole or hollow in the cleft of a wave-worn rock for its nest.

The egg is white, freckled with minute rusty spots; only one is laid. It is of large proportionate size.

STORM PETREL

MOTHER CAREY'S CHICKEN—COMMON STORM PETREL—STORMY PETREL.

PLATE CCXXXII.—FIGURE I.

Procellaria pelagica, . LINNÆUS.
Procellaria pelagica, . FLEMING. JENYNS. TEMMINCK.
Thalassidroma pelagica, SELBY. GOULD.

THE Storm Petrel breeds on the smaller islands around the coasts. The nest is made often in holes in stone walls or in rabbit burrows, a single egg being laid usually on the bare ground. The bird sits very close, and will allow herself to be taken sooner than forsake her charge.

The egg is white, and somewhat of an oval shape. About the base is a ring of faint dull-coloured pink or fine rust-coloured spots.

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